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THE SANDMUTOPIAN

GUARDIAN

Male Genitorture II

Tony DeBlase Goes Inside

The Steel Ring -
Getting It On

Coming Out
as a BDSMer

Pregnancy
and Play

Playing with the
Single Tail

Cecilia Tan -
The Morning After

Updates from
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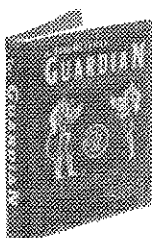
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The SandMUtopian Guardian #34

Letters to **THE GUARDIAN** ~Our Readers' Forum

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We cannot print a letter with no name or address. Information will be held confidential.

Word from Down Under

I have bought several issues of *The Guardian* and have greatly enjoyed the articles. It is great to find a magazine that pulls no punches and has very informative articles. Here in New Zealand it is not easy to find books and magazines on the scene. Congratulations on producing a fine mag and I hope you carry on for many years to come. I hope that our censors here will continue to allow your mag into NZ. They are letting more fetish reading in so there is hope for us yet. I look forward to the next issue.

David F.
Auckland

Crucifixion

I recently obtained a copy of the 10th Anniversary Issue #30 which included several pictures of covers of old issues of *The Guardian*, illustrating the articles about the history of the magazine. I was very excited to spot the cover of #2, which had an article dealing with S&M crucifixion scenes. I've heard about and have been trying to find a copy of this article for a few years. I was even more excited to learn that copies of back issues could be obtained directly through you.

Therefore, please send me a copy of Issue #2. My money order is enclosed. I appreciate the effort and

I'm really looking forward to getting this article soon. Thanks again.

Michael G
NJ

Count me out

I have received your Issue #19 which I ordered. I still have three issues on my subscription to *The Guardian*. I was both a top and bottom since the age of four years. My sadistic teachers are in no way to blame for my strong orientation.

However, I strongly feel your publication exists for the benefit of professional cult leaders promoting a gross exhibitionist fringe. Please terminate my subscription and keep the money.

George, TX

Another Critical Look

Asexual BDSM is a perversion of what used to be described as a highly evolved form of sexuality, a deeper and more intimate relationship than vanilla. But today some SMers have robbed BDSM of this distinction. They've turned BDSM into performance art, acting and psychodrama. Eroticism is out. Genitality is out. Orgasm is out. Sex is out. All that's left is mind candy. Mind candy can't afford us discharge, release of tension. The sexually dysfunctional are now in control and I'll bet the conservative sex police are laughing their heads off. BDSM without sex is nothing more than abstinence! And abstinence if for kids, not for grownups.

It seems that the BDSM community today is overrun by

novices and the sexually dysfunctional.

Normally, this might not be such a problem. But today with the BDSM scene and the internet, these people have assumed positions of power and influence. They sometimes speak for the BDSM community. These people do not speak for me!

Many of these novices and the sexually dysfunctional come to BDSM because it's trendy, chic, it's the in thing to do. But trendiness trivializes. Many of these people come to BDSM without true proclivities! They don't know if they're a Top, a bottom or a switch. They're even unsure of what implements they want to use. And, many don't know their limits. These people are

so out of touch with their wants, needs and cravings, that BDSM amounts to little more than play, performance art, acting, or psychodrama. Sex isn't involved!

Traditionally, BDSM was supposed to represent a highly evolved, deeply intense, extremely intimate form of sexuality — on a higher emotional plane than vanilla. But today we have partners who are afraid of intimacy and deep feelings playing at BDSM! These people give BDSM a bad name.

Many of these people use BDSM rituals and behaviors as covers for their sexual dysfunction. For instance, a Top with erectile difficulties or problems with emotional commitment might be able to hide these inadequacies in non-sexual

From the Publishers

We are noticing some disturbing trends, both within and outside our BDSM "world."

This issue describes several instances of local, petty politicians using a BDSM club or group or individual in order to grab a few headlines and garner a few more votes. We seem to be the last persecutable minority! This happens, we believe, because so few of us are willing to stand up for ourselves ... and others ... as being first class citizens, despite our BDSM interests. It's hard to march or demonstrate when you have to drag your closet along with you. And, how many are willing to sign a petition, write a letter, or make a phone call, even when it means that an anticipated event is being cancelled because of the blind prejudice of others?

Inside the communities, things are growing even more distressing. There seems to be a cadre of self-appointed "guardians" who advocate bringing retribution on those that *they* deem to be "unsafe," "in-sane," or "non-consensual." This goes so far as turning the person in to the authorities of one sort or another. In our opinion, this is vigilantism of the basest sort. If people won't risk speaking out to the overculture, perhaps they will find

the means to speak out within the communities, organizations and groups when others are accused unjustly. At least it's a start.

Approaching the end of the century and the millennium, we find ourselves looking back in order to look ahead. As in our 10th Anniversary issue (#30), our next issue (#35) will be, in part, a wrap-up of where we are and how we got here as a "scene" and as members of "the community."

In addition to our regular features and articles, we welcome contributions from our readers for this retrospective. From a simple letter to the editor or IMHO piece to a full-length article, all contributions will be considered ... and paid for! (We do pay for articles ... not lavishly, but respectably. Even letters get a "gift certificate" toward items in our **Adam and Gillian's** catalog, toward back issues of *The Guardian* or a binder in which to keep them safe.)

If you have any questions or concerns before sitting down at your machine of choice, by all means, call us here at the office and let's talk about it. (Weekdays from 11am-9pm ET.)

Gerrie and Mitch

BDSM play. A preorgastic [*sic*] (unresponsive, frigid) bottom could also hide her inadequacy in non-sexual BDSM. And the neurotic ultra-tolerance of the BDSM community would forbid us from being judgmental of these defects. However, our enforced politically correct silence has turned much of BDSM into sexual farce, like the grind and groan vanilla porn of the 1960's. BDSM has become an asexual playground for emotionally immature children. Much of BDSM has been reneered art and aesthetics — like most bondage today — it can no longer stir up prurient interest.

In most instances, the sexual aspects of BDSM have been betrayed, not by an outside force like the conservative sex police, but by sexually dysfunctional insiders, by ourselves. Why choose abstinence when BDSM will do the job?

*Master William
NJ*

What do *you* think? Is Master William right? As we prepare for the next century, is his view of the BDSM world yours too? *The Guardian* wants to publish your replies.

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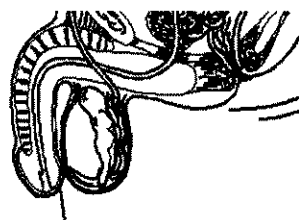
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Male Genitorture

Part II of a series

by Tony DeBlase aka Fledermaus

The old saying, "when you have him by his balls his heart and mind will follow," has a great deal of truth. The external genitalia are the most sensitive part of any man's body. They are also among his most "private" parts.



To manhandle a man's cock and balls is to take possession of the essence of him; to threaten those parts with pain and torture is to threaten his very core.

In the first part of this series we explored external sensations of compression, stretching, abrasion, etc. Now we look at more penetrating forms of torture.

Ed's Note: This information appeared in early issues of both The Sandmutopia Guardian and DungeonMaster. We asked the author to revisit the topic.

Emasculation

The "fate worse than death" for a man, supposedly, is to rob him of his masculinity. In Western culture the anatomical definition of a man is his set of genitals. Castration, the removal of the testicles — with or without the scrotum, — and emasculation, removal of *both* penis and scrotum, are the ultimate punishments.

Though safe, sane, consensual SM does not generally allow for castration or emasculation in practice, this is a common fantasy. Threats of removal of, or permanent damage to, the genitals can be important components of an SM scene. Shaving of the pubic hair, and of hair on the genitals themselves is regarded by many as the first stage of this emasculation. Thus, many into Master/slave roles keep the slave shaved as a badge of his status as, "less than a man."

However, there is one castra-

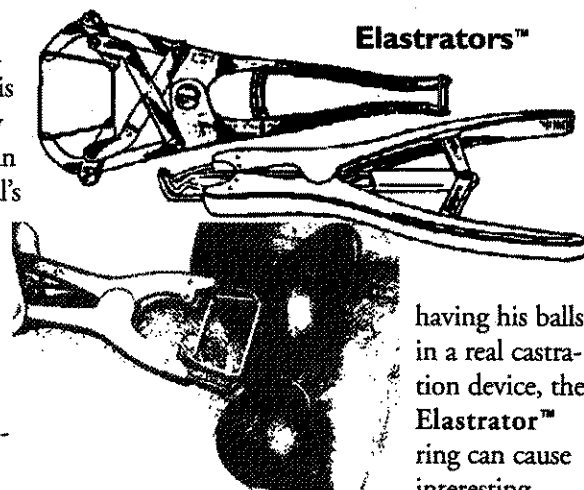
tion technique that can be used over and over again, as long as you don't go too far. The "Elastrator™" is a brand name for one of several commercial castration devices used on lambs, calves and other farm animals. This is a tool that stretches a tiny rubber donut so that it can be slipped over the animal's scrotum. With the tool removed and the band in place at the base (top) of the scrotum, the band pinches both nerves and blood vessels. (Without blood circulation the scrotum and testicles die, blacken and eventually drop off.) The pinched nerves keep this a relatively painless operation.

An Elastrator™ can be used on a human male as well and, if left on long enough, would have the same result. (The procedure should be supervised by someone with special

training and/or deep experience.) How long is long enough? I don't know. It takes several weeks for an animal's scrotum to actually drop off. However, the onset of tissue damage due to loss of blood flow is considerably faster.

How long before tissue damage starts in a man? I don't know. I know of *no* cases where an Elastrator™ band has been left on long enough to cause damage. Ten to 15 minutes is the longest I have ever left one on.

In addition to the head trip of



Elastrators™

having his balls in a real castration device, the Elastrator™ ring can cause interesting

physical sensations. EMT-scissors are the safest way to remove the rubber band when the time is up. As the ring is cut, blood again begins to flow and pressure on the nerves is released. Men I have clamped have described the first sensation as simi-

We have all had a foot "go to sleep" and are familiar with the "pins and needles" prickling sensation as it reawakens.

lar to what they would have imagined actual castration with a knife would feel like. There is a sudden sharp sensation of release, then a feeling of the blood gushing away from the body. This is followed by a reawakening of the nerves. We have all had a foot "go to sleep" and are familiar with the "pins and needles" prickling sensation as it reawakens. That is precisely the feeling in the scrotum as it reawakens following removal of the **Elastrator™** band.

Another technique to achieve similar results is the **punishment horse**. This is, typically, a sharp edged rail that the man being punished is forced to sit astride, with hands bound behind him so he cannot relieve the pressure of his body weight pressing against the thin edge running between his legs. The rail is always elevated sufficiently that his legs just dangle and again, have nothing against which to relieve the pressure in his crotch. Sometimes sandbags or other weights are tied to his legs to increase the pressure. In the late 18th century this was a common military punishment, with a soldier sentenced to spend hours on the horse for some infraction. In addition to the basic discomfort of the bondage position, the sharp edge in the crotch pinches nerves to the genitals. When removed from the horse the victim experiences sensations similar to those described above. Since this technique does not restrict blood flow it is not as potentially dangerous. However, if the pinched nerve should be damaged, regeneration is a very slow process.

Electrotorture

Because of their abundant supply of nerve endings the genitals are a perfect site for applications of electrical stimulations. Any type of electrical device that can be used on the human body will work well on the genitals.

Violet wands, which apply static electricity, work anywhere on the genitals, particularly on the cockhead.

The only precaution here is overexposure to the light, which can cause the equivalent of a sunburn. Since the violet wand

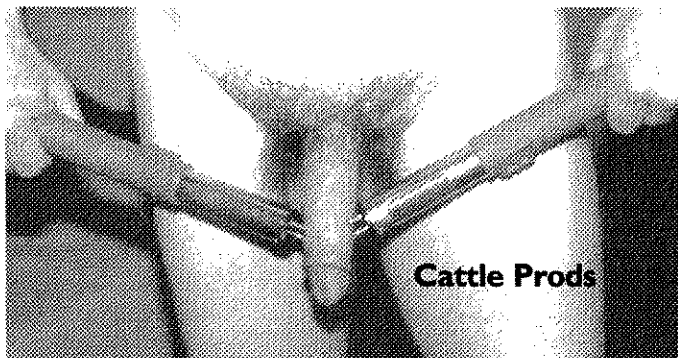
works well through clothing or other covering it can be used in conjunction with elastic bandage wrapping.

Relaxacisors™, **Walkmasters**, **Titilators**, pleasure boxes, and other electrical pulse devices that require two electrodes are ideal for genital stimulation. The electrodes themselves might be specially constructed, commercially available cockrings and buttplugs, or you can use strips of aluminum foil, copper pot scrubbers and aluminum cigar tubes.

Placement, and proper lubrication with an electro-conductive jelly available in many large drug stores, are the keys to a variety of interesting stimulations. An electrified cockring in position behind the cock and balls can be the basis of several arrangements. The second electrode could be placed just behind the

glans, connected to a genital piercing such as a Prince Albert or a guiche, or to an anal plug. A path from cockring to buttplug sends the current through the prostate, something most men find, at certain intensities, extremely pleasurable — at higher intensity the pleasure turns to screams! To target the prostate even more precisely, use a buttplug as one electrode and a urethral sound as the other. Most of the electrical sources discussed here can function for **electropleasure** as well as **electrotorture**.

The **hand-crank generator**, however, is primarily an electrotorture device. And it is of greatest effectiveness when used on the geni-



Cattle Prods

tals. **Cattle prods** and **stun guns** can be used on the genitals, but these devices are devastatingly painful when used on the buttocks, thighs or other large muscle masses. If applied to the genitals they can be truly debilitating. I would definitely recommend that the novice to these implements begin with a three-cell (C size) stock prod. If you like this, graduate to larger units (the largest have seven cells). [See #27 for more.]

Urethral Invasion

Most heterosexual men consider the possibility of something being inserted up their ass as the greatest possible invasion of personal privacy, possibly even more than the thought of a knife penetrating skin and muscle. But that is only because they have never even considered the pos-

continued on pg 8

Male Genitorture

continued from pg 7

sibility of something being shoved up their dicks. This latter case is probably true of most non-SM bi- and homosexual men as well.

Urethral invasion is a head trip, a control scene, not a pain scene. In most cases, if it hurts, it is causing damage and should not be done. Urethral sounds are surgical steel rods made for probing the urethra. (Venereal diseases such as gonorrhea cause wounds in the urethral lining. As these heal they can adhere to one another so that the sides of the urethra stick together. Sounds are used to force these apart. They come in graduated sizes so that when the smaller one can be inserted, the next larger size is used to further pry apart the tender flesh. It is a painful process!)

As a sadist I would have loved to have been an 18th century physician specializing in this treatment. I can imagine the handsome young rake lying naked on my treatment table as I manhandle the cock that he has obviously been shoving into places it should not have been, and have him watching with trepidation as I shove the steel rod into his piss slit. He would try to bear the pain as I tear open the strictures in his urethra ever so slowly, milking him for all the agony I can produce. Perhaps I will have to use restraints to keep him from moving around too much, or have my burly assistant hold him down.

Fine for fantasy, but not an SM play scene. Well lubricated sounds should be inserted carefully and slowly. They should produce a feeling of invasion ... of fullness. If you want to gradually increase the size of the sound, this should be done in small increments so that the diame-

ter of the urethra is stretched slowly. There may be feelings of tightness but the procedure should definitely not produce sharp pains or bleeding.

Only catheters and sounds which have been manufactured for insertion into the human urethra should be used on one. Only clean

.....

...the permanent piercing may, or may not, be a tool for genital torture

.....

or sterile tools and technique should be used. (See sidebar.). I have seen guys fuck their piss slits with chopsticks dipped in Crisco™ or toothbrush handles lubricated with toothpaste. This is dangerous! These days antibiotics take care of most cases of gonorrhea and other venereal diseases before urethral strictures can occur. But abrading the inside of the urethra with a chopstick is another good way to cause strictures. If you are stupid enough to do it, I volunteer to use the sounds to open you up again!

Catheters are flexible rubber tubes that penetrate to the bladder. They are much easier to insert than sounds. If you are beginning with this area become competent with catheters first, then move on to a straight sound, and become proficient with it before trying a curved, or Van Buren, sound.

Curved sounds terminate right at the point where the urethra enters the prostate. Many men find it extremely pleasurable to just have such a sound in place. This feeling is intensified if the sound is stroked or

tapped to set up vibrations. A curved sound should only be inserted into, and removed from, a flaccid penis. An erection can occur while it is in place, but it must go down before it is removed.

There is considerable disagreement on the advisability of ejaculation while a sound is in place. Remember that ejaculation occurs with great force and if the way out is tightly blocked you can blow a hole in the piping. Try pissing with a sound in place before you attempt to ejaculate. And only try it while "wearing" a sound several sizes smaller than the largest you can comfortably accommodate.

Piercing

With a couple of exceptions genital piercings are limited to the skin. The following is in no way a full treatise on piercing and should *not* be considered adequate instruction for a novice to begin this procedure. It is a discussion of genital piercing, not to be undertaken until a full understanding of piercing basics is firmly in place.

Permanent piercings are inserted and worn as permanent jewelry. The process of insertion may or may not be part of a scene. It is the existence of the permanent piercing that is important. When in place and thoroughly healed, the permanent piercing may, or may not, be a tool for genital torture. It depends upon how manipulation of it is perceived by the wearer. It could be used as a point of bondage attachment, as an electrode attachment, or as an object of other stimulation. If a permanent genital piercing is present, take care to avoid it when whipping. If it is not fully healed avoid getting things like Ben Gay™ into the wound.

Most permanent genital piercings penetrate only the skin, a few, such as the Prince Albert, penetrate

a small amount of other tissue in addition to the skin. And a few, such as the ampallang, pierce the *corpus spongiosum*. This is the **only** part of the genital anatomy, other



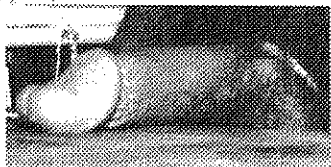
than the skin, suitable for permanent piercings.

Temporary piercings can be effective on the genitals. The proximity of needles to the genital organs is a heavy head trip if nothing else. With two exceptions piercing should penetrate **only** the skin. They may be placed anywhere: through the skin of the shaft of the penis, the foreskin, and the scrotum, taking care to locate major blood vessels, and avoid them.

The perfect instrument to use for a temporary or play piercing is a **sterile hypodermic needle**. Clean technique is a minimum requirement. If the piercings are to be left in place while the Top goes on to other activities, or if the bottom is to be allowed to move around while the piercings are in place, the sharp tips of the needles must be protected. They could be "capped" by placing small sterile corks on the ends of the play piercings, or a butterfly board or other similar device could be used. A butterfly board fits around the cock and balls, can be attached to the body to keep it in place, then the skin of the genitals can be spread and pinned out to it. The board is composed of a double layer of foam core, which holds the needles securely, and a basal layer of masonite which gives rigidity to the whole and prevents the needles from

passing into the underlying torso.

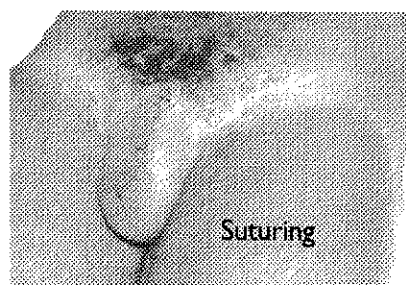
The shaft of the penis should **never** be pierced. Breaches to the walls of the *corpora callosa* are just too dangerous. A pinhole created when the penis is flaccid could stretch to a major breach when the cock is erect. Similarly a pinhole in an erect cock would, under the hydraulic pressure in the *corpora*, still result in major bleeding. However, as with permanent piercings,



the cockhead's *corpus spongiosa* can be pierced. Needles can be passed through the cockhead in vir-

tually any direction. When they are removed there will be significant bleeding, which should be controlled with the usual applications of pressure and cold if necessary.

One other portion of the male genitalia, while not suitable for permanent piercing, can be subjected to temporary piercings. This is the testicles themselves. The testicles must be completely immobilized in the scrotum, either by spreading on a butterfly board or by other forms of bondage. The scrotal skin must be



cleansed and only a sterile hypodermic needle used. The needle should be plunged slowly and steadily directly into the testicle. It should not go far enough to penetrate the opposite side of the testicle and you should avoid piercing the *epididymis*. It is essential that the needle go straight in, stay there as long as you wish, and then come straight out. The tiny size of the needle will do

only insignificant damage to the glandular tissue of the testicle *if* it is not moved about when in place. However, if it is wiggled or manipulated it will act like a stirring rod and cause a great deal of testicular damage. Once the needle(s) is (are) withdrawn, the testicle should be subjected to no further manipulation until the wound in the testicular capsule has time to heal.

Amazingly, testicular piercing is not a particularly painful scene. The testicles seem to react almost exclusively to pressure. The bottom feels the needle piercing skin, feels the pressure of the needle point on the testicular capsule, and little else. However, while this is not a pain trip it is a *very* heavy head trip.

Suturing is another form of temporary piercing play that involves needle and thread instead of pins. Only sterile packed surgical needles, with attached suture, should be used, and both Top and bottom should be thoroughly experienced with play piercing before moving on to sutures.

As to what to suture ... sewing closed the foreskin, if one exists, is an obvious possibility. Sewing closed the meatus of the urethra is another. A couple of stitches attaching the foreskin, or the remnants of it, to the belly skin could keep the penis up and out of the way during ball torture. I have also seen some wonderful mock castrations in which the scrotal skin has been stretched up to completely cover the cock and balls and stitched in place so that the "victim" could walk around with a naked crotch conspicuously lacking cock and balls.

Scrotal Inflation & Penile Stretching

The thought of injecting a foreign substance into the genitals is erotic to many. In heavy torture fic-

continued on pg 10

Genitorture

continued from pg 9

tion, and perhaps in *real* heavy torture, acid, alcohol, or other caustic solutions get injected into the testicles and/or cockhead. But for safe, sane play these are absolutely forbidden! Injecting *anything*, including sterile saline solution, into the testicle will cause great pain through increased pressure within the testicular capsule. It will also cause significant, and possibly permanent, damage.

There are also fantasies of injecting silicone, or other such substances, into the shaft of the penis to increase its size, or rigidity. These are medical procedures that should be left to physicians. They are *not* subjects for erotic play, other than in fantasy.

However, there *is* one injection scene that is available for play: **scrotal inflation**. It should be attempted only by a Top who is thoroughly familiar with appropriate techniques

for piercing and working with sterile fields. Sterile saline solution is injected into the scrotum, *not* the testicles, but into the scrotal sac where it surrounds the testicles. The scrotal sac is very elastic and can inflate to the size of a large grapefruit, or even a small football. The bottom receives the sensations of stretching of the scrotal skin, the water pressure bearing down on the trapped testicles, the weight of the full scrotum pulling at the cords, and the difficulty of moving with this swollen "thing" between his legs. If proper technique is used there is no damage and the scrotum slowly deflates over several days as the sterile saline is adsorbed by the body.

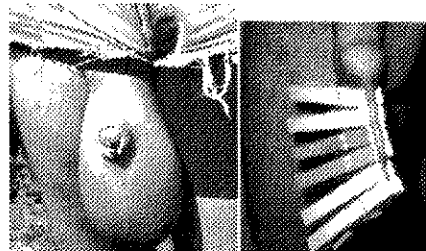
Stretching. Skin, and most of the soft connective tissue in the body can be stretched. It will usually shrink back to its original shape but if the stretching occurs far enough, for long enough, or often enough, it loses some of its elasticity and stays stretched.

Many men who were circumcised in their youth want their foreskin back, and many have achieved some success with various techniques for stretching the remnants of skin to cover the glans, at least partially. Others have stretched their scrotal skin by wearing progressively longer stretchers between their testes and the base of the scrotum. I know of a man who had stretched his scrotal pouch by near constant manipulation and frequent inflations. He was a big man (over 6' 6") to start with, but his bag was still impressive. In its normal state it looked like a deflated football, the skin had just about that texture too. Inflated he could hold four liters of saline. That is more than a gallon!

Vacuum pumping is another way of at least temporarily stretching the penis, and or the scrotum. I have to admit it is a subject I know little about.

Genital Modification

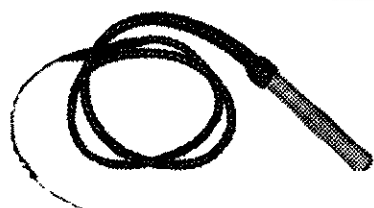
Permanent piercings have been discussed. Besides castration and emasculation there are other surgical modifications that can be made to the genitals, primarily the penis.



Subincision is the opening of the urethra along some or all of the base of the penis. With a subincised penis, urine and semen drain from the base of the subincision, rather than from the tip. In some cultures this is used as a method of birth control. Among the Australian Aborigines it is a rite of passage marking a boy's transition to manhood. I have seen photos of penises that have been bifurcated, some only the cock head, others for up to the entire length. All of these techniques are beyond the scope of this article. If you are interested I recommend *PFIQ (Piercing Friends International Quarterly)* published by Gauntlet, and Fakir Mussifar's *Body Play Quarterly*. ♦

(Note: This article appeared originally in *DungeonMaster* #44 and #45, in '93. The first part (through testicle torture) was reprinted in *The SandmUtopia Guardian* #14, in Nov. 93.)

(Tony DeBlase is the Founder of *The Guardian* and a recognized authority in the scene on this and other subjects. He now lives in the Pacific Northwest with his long time partner.)



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Definitions:

Each person must understand that these are relative degrees of cleanliness as they apply to various kinds of contaminants. As with all SM play, both Top and bottom must understand the levels of risk and accept that risk for the activities in which they engage.

Sterile:

Something that is sterile is cleaned of all forms of life including viruses and bacterial spores. Many medical supplies, including hypodermic needles, sutures, catheters and lubricant are available in presterilized packages. Sterilizing occurs in an autoclave, a device for applying steam heat under pressure.

If you do not have access to an autoclave you can sterilize anything that will stand the heat in a home pressure cooker. Place the object to be sterilized into a paper bag and seal securely with masking tape. Place it in a basket, or on a rack, above the water in a pressure cooker and process at 15 lbs of pressure for 30 minutes. When the cooker has cooled, transfer the rack or basket, without touching the wet bags with anything that was not in the pressure cooker, to a preheated 200 degree oven. Turn the oven off and leave the packages there until dry.

Ideally everything that comes in contact with a person's body fluids should be sterilized before being reused. Anything that has come in contact with the blood or semen of one person, *must* be sterilized before being used on another person. Since it is virtually impossible to clean dried blood and tissue out of the lumen of a hypodermic needle, it is virtually impossible to assure sterilization even with an autoclave. These should be disposed of in an appropriate "sharps" container after a single use.

Decontaminated:

In current usage this means that the object has been washed in soap and water or otherwise cleaned of all grease, then cleaned with either a 10% solution of chlorine bleach, a 10% solution of hydrogen peroxide, or a 70% alcohol solution. These agents will kill most bacteria and some viruses, including HIV. They will *not* kill hepatitis or herpes viruses. Be certain to rinse all items thoroughly, particularly those cleaned in chlorine, before reuse.

This procedure can be used on items that cannot

be sterilized, such as dildos, Lexan™ cockrings and similar toys, and leather whips which have drawn blood. It can be used on sounds and piercing implements (not hollow needles) if hepatitis, herpes, etc. are not a concern.

Personal Reserve:

This is used to refer to items that are not sterilized, and possibly not even decontaminated between uses, but are reserved for use on only one person. On the theory that you cannot catch anything you do not already have, this is permissible. However, anything that breaks the skin, like a needle, or that enters the bladder, like a catheter *must* be kept in a clean container, safe from ambient contaminants between uses.

Clean-Unused:

This refers to the original condition of a new object. It is based upon the assumption that the object has not previously come in contact with *any* person's body fluids. For example, a package of stainless steel diaper pins purchased at a store. One can relatively safely assume that they have not yet pierced the skin of anyone and that they are relatively free of general bacterial contamination. The same could be safely assumed for a urethral sound purchased still in its plastic bag at a medical supply outlet.

Sterile Technique:

This means that all aspects of the operation have been brought to the highest possible levels of sterility — including a surgical scrub of the operator's hands, the victim's body, removal of hair near the operation site, sterile masks, etc. Usually, this level of sterility is achieved only in hospitals, medical clinics and similar facilities.

Clean Technique:

This means that all of the implements are sterile, if that is required, or at least decontaminated, including any lubricants in use; that sterile, or at least clean unused gloves are being used to handle catheters, sounds, piercing needles, etc. ... and that the work area is kept as free from contaminants as is possible. This is the technique usually found at a first aid site, and which should be found in the playroom when these techniques are being performed. ♦

Genital Press

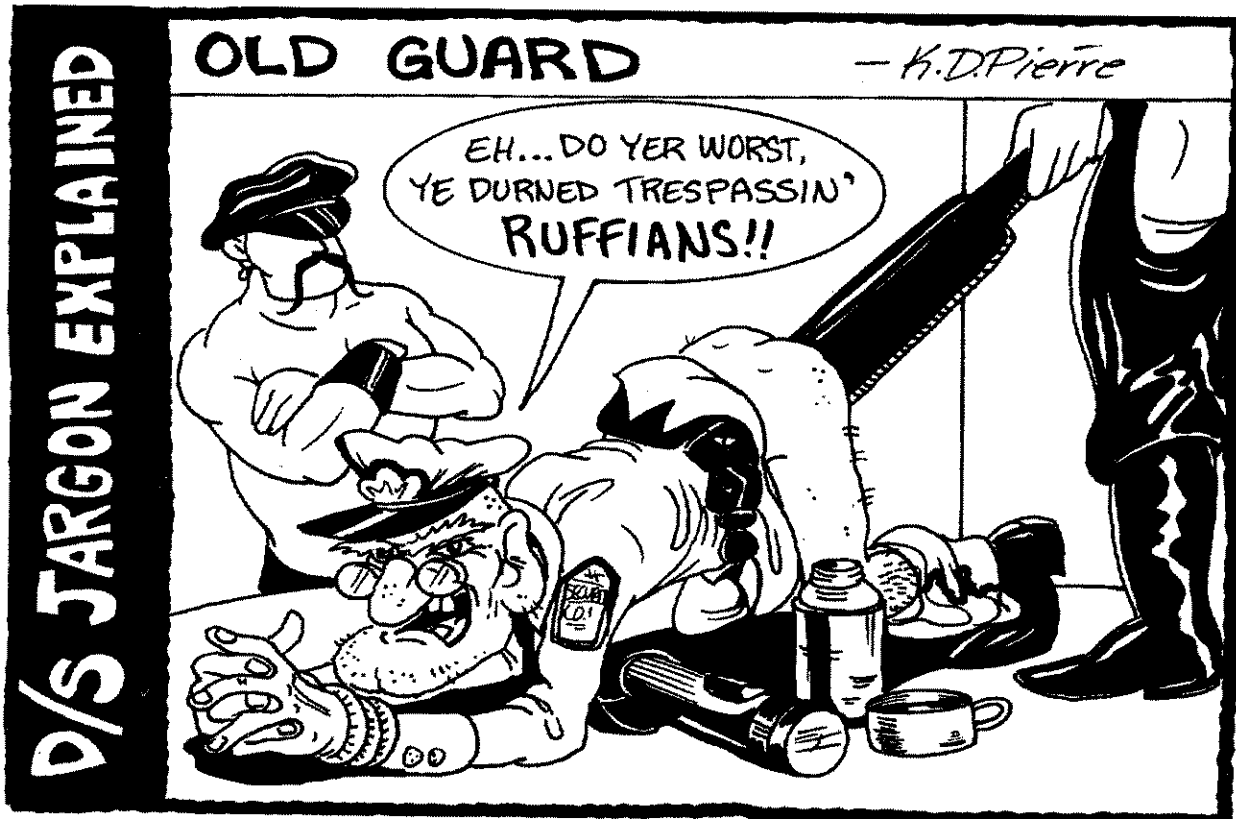
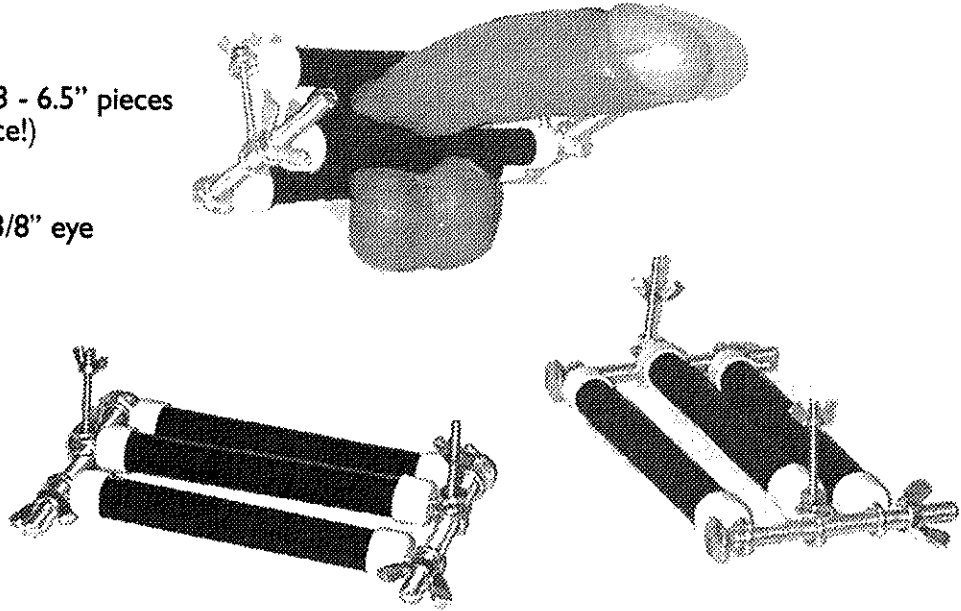
by SxySadist

This handy little device is easy to create and easy to assemble for use, making it a good travelling companion. The parts are readily available at our favorite BDSM supplier, The "Dom" Depot, or at your local hardware store.

Materials you will need:

- 1 wooden dowel cut into 3 - 6.5" pieces (1", 7/8" 3/4" — your choice!)
- 2 3/8" bolts, 4.5" long
- 2 1/8" bolts, 2" long with 3/8" eye
- 2 3/8" wing nuts for bolts
- 2 1/8" wing nuts for bolts
- 6 screws with 3/8" eyes for dowels
- 2 end caps for dowels

Vinyl Electrical tape



Genuine



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Morning After Syndrome

Who did what and how it feels later

by Cecilia Tan

I'm going to open a can of thorny worms with this topic, because although everything about it may seem like common sense, people who have been through "morning after syndrome" will tell you that rational, non-reactionary, non-knee-jerk thought can be hard to come by when in that state.

What is morning after syndrome? MAS is waking up one day, usually the day after a scene, and thinking, "Oh My God, what have I done?" Or, in the case of bottoms, what did I let him/her/ them do to me? It isn't that you can't remember; it's that you remember *everything* and are now feeling guilty, horrified, or ashamed about it. There are generally four times when people suffer MAS:

1) after a good scene where nothing went wrong, but we feel uneasy anyway,

2) after a scene where an accident or injury occurred,

3) after a genuine rape or assault took place, but which we didn't recognize as such until it was too late, and

4) most difficult of all, a scene where the next day we're just not sure how to classify it.

I'll try to deal with each of these situations from the bottom's perspective. Through my years in the scene, helping friends and acquaintances come out into leather, I see MAS much more often in bottoms than in Tops. I think sometimes it is the loss of control itself, the thing which so many of us bottoms crave, that makes us the most frightened in the morning light. The thought that we willingly put ourselves into such a situation leaves us wondering if we can really trust ourselves.

It sounds like common sense. Two consenting adults agree to play. One is the Top, the one who seemingly wields control. The other is the bottom, the one who seemingly accedes control. In some scenes, control may be genuinely given up. The bottom may be psychologically humiliated or physically tortured. Even with the most

consummate and experienced of Tops, this can cause a self-doubt for the bottom. In a best case scenario like this, it is not our Tops we distrust, but our own judgment.

In cases such as this, where nothing has gone wrong but you still feel that pang of worry in the morning, there are several things the bottom can do to restore confidence (and self-confidence). Talking things over with the Top is the primary action; a responsible and

mature Top's care for your well-being doesn't end the moment the cuffs come off. Learning more about leather and BDSM can also help ... whether by reading books, attending meetings, taking classes, participating in Internet discussions — for several reasons:

One, the better informed you are about your options and safety, the better you can judge possible risk. Two, the better you know yourself and your

desires, the more comfortable you can be with them and the better you can recognize your own limits. Three, you will feel as though you have a support network or community to go to for a reality check when MAS strikes.

What to ask, what to do

If you feel frightened, uneasy, or guilty after a scene, sitting at home fester in the feelings will only make them worse. Talk to your Top, your peers, and ask yourself some questions.

Is there something specific that made you uneasy? Were you unsure if something the Top did was safe? Did you feel it was your fault for not negotiating clearly? Did you feel the Top disregarded a limit of yours?

Were you even aware you had such a limit? Was



*... the better informed
you are about
your options and safety,
the better you can judge
possible risk*

there a miscommunication? The goal here is not to place blame, but to alleviate the negative feelings that can create resentment between partners and emotional scars in individuals that can interfere with future pleasures and relationships. Discuss your feelings with the Top, with a close friend who understands BDSM, or with someone in the community whose opinion you value.

Now, what about those situations where something in the scene did go wrong?

What if the Top made an error that could have potentially injured you? What if your limits were crossed? What if the Top did something you considered inappropriate or wrong? What if the Top really did force you to do something you didn't want to do?

The first thing a bottom in such a situation must examine is whether he or she has suffered any genuine physical harm. Were you exposed to STDs, unsafe body fluids, or put at risk of pregnancy? Did you sustain cuts, bruises, sprains or other injuries, and was it by accident (e.g. a lamp fell on you from the nightstand, or you tripped and fell) ... or did the injury seem willful? Accept that accidents do happen, and that Tops, though we fantasize about them being perfect and infallible, can make mistakes. If an accident occurred, how was it handled?

A good and seasoned Top recovers from accidents swiftly and with all concern for your safety. If the Top was able to fix the mistake, quickly ministered to the injury, and apologized for the mishap, I would probably still feel safe with that person. On the other hand, if the Top pooh-poohed the injury or my complaint, or ignored it, or pretended it wasn't his or her job to deal with it, then I would quickly begin looking for someone else to play with.

Then, there are times when dangerous rapists masquerading as experienced Tops come into our midst and take advantage of the unique opportunity that our community presents. Recently reported cases of serial rapists in New York and Texas have caused much community uproar. In cases where your "Top" ignores your attempts to negotiate, clearly disregards your safeword, imprisons you against your genuine protests, and/or endangers your health willfully ... yes, in those cases you should not only warn others in your community, you may want to consider legal action. In the case of a genuine exploitation, assault or rape, do not wait until the next morning! Go directly to the emergency room and gather the evidence medically that you were abused. Not all Anti-Violence or Rape Counselors are sympathetic to BDSM players who are abused because they believe (wrongly) that you somehow "asked for" or "deserved" what you got. These are

... my advice is to take responsibility for your own actions and the choices you made

people who do not understand what consensual BDSM is, and it is our job to educate them. Again, in the case of genuine rape or assault, don't wait — seek help immediately.

When it is not clear-cut

But the most difficult case of all is one where it is not so clear cut.

Things which seemed okay in candlelight may seem egregious in the morning. His or her handling of the emergency, for example, which seemed adequate at the time, may now leave you afraid to play with that person again. You may decide that your Top was badly informed about safety or just plain dumb, but not a criminal. It's also possible you had a Top who tried his or her best to manipulate you in the way you wanted but failed, who tried to give a hint of danger but erred and went too far, who tried to humiliate you and actually brought you to genuine tears that you had not intended to cry, who genuinely frightened you, who went too fast, but who played in good faith. Now what do you do?

Responsibility

In cases like this, my advice is to take responsibility for your own actions and the choices you made. There is risk in BDSM, both physical and emotional. I suffer some permanent nerve damage from bondage that was too tight. I cannot erase the past or undo the injury any more than I can undo the skiing accident I had a few winters back. What I can do is try to give my partner the benefit of the doubt. In that morning after, even after a good scene, you may feel scared, angry, pissed off, wronged, and you may want to lay blame on someone. And, frighteningly, the very same community that exists to protect us from marauders gives us the mechanism to hang one another.

We who call ourselves leather activists think of ourselves as gatekeepers of the community. But, as with the impeachment debacle that raged in Congress, we do not have any firm rule about where we should draw the line between our service to the public and our respect of people's private lives. Would you feel obligated to "report" a merely lousy or stupid Top to the "authorities," either the police, or your local leather community group?

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The Morning After

These are dangerous waters to tread. Most leather communities do not have a formal grievance process — we are communities only in a loose sense. Would you slander the person, and try to get her or him ostracized socially or banned from groups?

In an atmosphere in which any bottom can cry “Witch!” and have someone else burnt at the stake, no one benefits. This is why it is up to us as bottoms to take care of ourselves, to be aware of our situation and inform ourselves about safety and responsibility. Both so that when a truly dangerous Top comes along, you will know it, and so when incompetent Tops or just Tops we misconnect with come into our lives, we can keep ourselves from overreacting.

Before people go skydiving they are usually shown a video tape that asks them if they know and accept the risks of the activity they are about to undertake. In the video they show the results of skydiving accidents and ask the viewer repeatedly, “are you aware that you may be severely injured or maimed? Are you aware you maybe crippled for life? Are you aware that you may be killed?” You get the idea. But with BDSM, it’s rare that anyone will sit you down right before a scene and review with you everything that might go wrong. It’s a buzz kill, for sure. Which is why I’m writing this article.

In an era when the U.S. government can be brought to its knees over accusations of oral sex, I do not want to see our community fall prey to a witch hunt syndrome, where someone who owes you money can be called a “dangerous Top” and be

continued from pg 15

booted from a group, where a vengeful ex-lover can force the resignation of a leader by the mere accusation. The only way to avoid this situation is for bottoms to be able to stand on their own, and to be judicious in our use of the accusation. Know and accept for yourself that there may be risks involved in playing at BDSM. Just because you are the bottom, and someone else is the one handling the ropes and fire and whips and chains, does not place the

responsibility for the outcome of the scene wholly on the other person. You cooperate with each other. I expect a Top to help me through any bad physical or psychological fallout that may result from a scene (even a good scene). That seems a reasonable expectation, and is one that has served me well over the years. Hopefully it will you, too. ❖

(Cecilia Tan is the Publisher of the books of Circlet Press and is active in NLA: New England. She welcomes your comments here at The Guardian.)

SIGNS YOU MAY BE GOING TOO FAR:

— K.D. Pierce





Outing Myself

by Carolyn Keelen

I'm really lucky. All of my friends are open-minded and/or wilder than I am, so I can tell them anything; I was the Creative Director at several advertising agencies, so Management didn't expect me to be "normal" — and, my family is small, so I didn't have to throw a Coming Out Party (see Sidebar) as a bisexual BDSMer, but could tell everyone individually. Compared to some stories I've heard from friends, my coming out was easy and fun!

When I first discovered the Scene in 1975, I thought I'd discovered heaven! Since I'm the type of person I am, eventually my friends had to listen to interminable lectures on the delights of BDSM, see every new whip I bought, meet my Scene friends and actually get dragged to meetings! Not one of them was interested in adding BDSM to his or her life, but they put up with me. (And, they all still love me, thank goodness!) After all, BDSM was more interesting than my other enthusiams over the years: Duplicate Bridge, Objectivism, Chess, the Libertarian Party, Scrabble... and

always sex, men, sex, women and just plain sex! (Nothing is more excruciating than being forced to hear about another person's sex life, especially if your's isn't great!) When I worked, I came out to everyone on my job within a few days of beginning with a new company, but after they'd paid the head-hunter, of course. Since I was the Creative Director, being a BDSMer was tame! The art directors were the wild ones, with their blue facial make-up, green, pink, purple or bright red hair and goodness knows what else. Actually, the management of the agencies worried about cocaine use because that decreased productivity ... not our freakiness or kinkiness — though they *did* ask me not to wear my heavy leathers when I was making a presentation to a client!

Of course, I would *not* have, but I had told them I would, just to keep them on their toes! And, after

all, I *did* dress as Dr. Frank-N-Furter of the "Rocky Horror Picture Show" at the company Hallowe'en costume party in '80. The clients loved it, especially my tits, which looked fabulous supported by the corset! And, I *did* sometimes wear full leathers to work in the fall or winter when there was *not* going to be any client contact ... and I was attending a scene organization meeting later. Why not? Leather is warm and this was New York! Everyone wears leather ... just not studded leather, maybe.

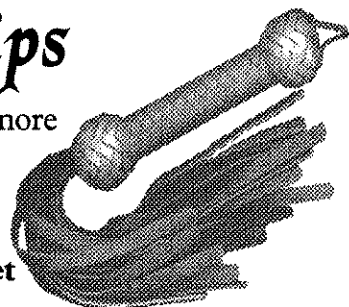
Back home, I waited to come out to my Dad until an April '83 visit to Austin, to see the wild flowers. As we were driving along, I asked him to talk about our family history. Eventually, I brought up *the* razor strop and found out more about it: that it was purchased by my Great-Grandfather, had been used on Granddad, on Dad (and his

continued on pg 18

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Outing Myself

continued from pg 17

brother) and then on me. The theory was that our family had particularly insolent, stubborn children, who needed extreme discipline. And, by the way, Dad felt that I had taken the insolence to new heights! The words that accompanied each strapping were, "I'm doing this to *try* to make you a good little girl ... and because I love you." I believe the connections I have between love, control and pain were made indelible by that one sentence. (If *that* sentence doesn't sound like "Scene Speak," I don't know what does!)

My cousin George was even more heavily disciplined than I was, since he was a few years older and a boy. He rebelled totally and became a Country-Western bass player: which caused fibrillations in the family! Eventually he married Gwen, settled down and had a daughter. When he began to discipline her during the early '60's in the traditional family manner, it caused all kinds of problems. A neighbor complained to the police and the courts were involved. By then, Dr. Spock had Spoken... and the laws had changed radically from the '40's, when we were kids. His whole family was forced by the court to go into therapy. It worked and they became convinced that our family's methods were wrong, so their other three kids never got even a spanking.

I got this information from their daughter years ago, and I used it to help me come out to George and Gwen. (They were both 73 years old at the time.) I reminded them of our family history of strapping children for the least infraction and showed them *the* razor strap. George remembered it, since he'd

experienced it once himself on a visit to us. He also saw Dad use it on me every day! (I was a very *bad* little girl. I figured, if I was going to get beat anyway, I might as well have some fun!)

I said to George and Gwen, "Did you know that, 'spanking your kids,' goes in cycles, that it's passed down from generation to generation?" That's when they told me themselves about what had happened with their family.

I asked George if he'd ever felt any attraction to BDSM because of the discipline he'd received; he claimed he hadn't, but I saw the

So, I was his slave
for two weeks!
I ran up and down
the stairs ...
as he ordered me

look Gwen gave him! I told them that I felt that the beatings I'd received as a child had led me to my interest in BDSM and that it was a sexual turn-on for me. They were a little abashed, but said, "We know a lot of people who are kinky. There are groups at Sun City you wouldn't believe!"

I said, "Would you like to see a real dungeon?" and, of course, they said, "Yes!" and exchanged glances! When they walked through the door, their eyes bugged out a bit at the four-person cage, the sling, the whipping post, the wall of "toys," the two-sided St. Andrew's Cross,

the whipping bench and the bondage table. But, they asked good questions, and George immediately started playing with my signal whips, cracking them! (He had been a rodeo cowboy, too.) Gwen liked the floggers much better, especially ones made of the bunny fur and doe skin. I showed her some whipping techniques and she laughingly tried them on George! He was *not* impressed. I told him, "I can use the single tail on your bare skin; you'll be impressed ... or I could always used *the* razor strap!" He declined!!!

Gwen later told me privately that they'd played with silk-scarf bondage and a little sexy spanking. No surprise — they're *my* family!

On my Mother's side, I have one cousin, Bang. I went to visit his family every summer for two weeks as a child. When I was 11 and he was 12 years old, he suggested that we flip a coin to see who would be the other's slave for the visit. I thought it would be a great idea for him to be *my* slave, so I said, "Yes!" However, he was an intelligent brat and had bought two "magic" coins: one with two tails and the other with two heads! When I called heads, he picked up the tails coin and tossed it. (He told me about the cheating years later.)

So, I was his slave for two weeks! I ran up and down the stairs constantly, as he ordered me to get him this or that. And, we did almost everything two bright, nasty-minded kids can do together sexually at that age. I loved it, since I "had" to do it because I had given my word. I could enjoy every minute of it without guilt! And, I got a lot of information that wasn't available to girls in 1951, especially 11 year olds! I became *the* wise woman of the 7th grade!!

When I came out to Bang five

years ago, I started by refreshing his memory about that summer. Then, I told him I was into BDSM totally now ... and that it was *all* his fault! (Big smile!) It turns out that he's into BDSM, too; but privately. Since he's a politician, he's in the closet. In a few years, when he gets more used to the idea, I fully intend to drag him out of it!

By the way, you might have noted that I haven't mentioned anyone's reactions to my bisexuality. That's because everyone said, "Sure. Right. I've always thought you were that way." ... or... "I thought you were a dyke, even as a kid!" And then they'd continue, "Come to think of it, do you think *any* of this is news to me? You've always been weird." It's true, so what could I say?

So, sometimes, coming out can be fun and, even if it's not, at least you aren't lying to your friends and family anymore. That causes stress

and problems you can't anticipate. Besides, everyone would rather be told the truth than to be lied to and snuck around on... and that includes *all* women!

That's why I won't play with anyone who's not honest with his/her spouse or significant other. They have to be Out about being into BDSM and playing with me, or I won't play ... because I refuse to poach! I know that most people can't come out on the job unless they're in a creative area, work at home, or have open-minded management, but more and more jobs are that way! Most of you computer folks can feel free to come out! You're too valuable to fire! All you need is guts!

Personally, I'll recommend it to everyone. It's a *lot* better for you to reveal your "secrets" yourself than to have them discovered by accident ... or revealed by your enemies, who'll put the worst light on them! You

can put the best light on things. Do you see how I manipulated my family members by using old family stories as lead-ins to my revelations? What I did was communicate, "We are family. We have shared experiences. And here's this secret I can tell you because We are blood relatives and I trust you."

If they had rejected me, what would I have lost? Stress. Fear. And my relationship with them, my beloved, but closed-minded relatives. Is that really such a loss? I thought not! Go for it! ♦

(Carolyn Keelen has been involved in the NYC BDSM scene for most of her adult life. She now divides her time between the city and her home town of Austin Texas. She can be reached by email: SubTex@aol.com)

Do you have a "coming out" story to share? *The Guardian* wants to tell it.

♦ I think the Coming Out Party is a super idea! I wish I'd thought of it for me at the time! If you throw a *huge* one with several bands, have the fanciest, most expensive restaurant in town cater the event, send fabulous invitations with small type requesting that gifts be relevant(!), etc. (the whole bag of "party tricks"), your relatives, friends and co-workers won't dare to act disapproving, even if they're total prudes. Most folks are overwhelmed by money and display. Why not use that fact, if you happen to have a few thousand dollars laying around?



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Ladies in Waiting: Pregnancy and BDSM

by Rev. Storm Weaver, N.D., D.E.M

Several times recently, I have been involved in discussions regarding what is and is not appropriate "Scening" during pregnancy. Having spent almost 15 years as a midwife, I have seen many things. It is my firm belief that scening can be an integral part of a safe and healthy pregnancy. In some cases, it may even be necessary for a healthy state of mind. However, pregnancy is a different state of health and there are issues that must be addressed.

The Body in Pregnancy

First, a little anatomy lesson. In a non-pregnant woman, the abdominal organs are protected within the abdominal cavity and there is a good bit of tissue between the surface skin and any vital organs. During pregnancy, the uterus grows considerably and several changes take place: The uterus, which in its non-pregnant state is sheltered deep within the pelvic girdle, grows and rises in the abdomen pushing the other organs out of its way. The skin becomes thinner as it stretches around the growing belly, exposing a vital organ in a manner that it was not exposed in the non-pregnant state. The other organs of the abdomen are pushed upwards, backwards or downwards, depending on how they were positioned before the pregnancy, making them more vulnerable as well.

Additionally, the mother-to-be's kidneys and liver begin a mass processing job to process toxins from the baby and the mother, and the adrenal glands (which sit atop the kidneys) work harder to stabilize the mother's blood pressure. This happens because the mother's blood volume must increase by a third or more to support and nourish a growing placenta, baby, and increased tissue in the uterus, breasts and abdomen. In addition, the blood thins, in order to allow the greater flow of blood to pass more smoothly through the arterial/venous systems.

Effects on Scening

How does each of these things affect scening during

pregnancy? First, the increased size of the uterus means that the mother should avoid activities that would place undue pressure on that organ. If she is often placed on her belly to receive spankings, her Dom/me might consider having her stand or kneel. As the pregnancy pro-

gresses, the larger abdomen will change her center of gravity and the Top will want to be sure that she is properly balanced or supported, especially for activities in which she might slip, faint or tumble. Fainting is especially common in the first and third trimesters, and a pregnant woman can be injured quite badly from what may look like a minor fall.

Err on the side of Caution

If a pregnant woman complains of lightheadedness or dizziness, the Top should immediately stop and allow the submissive to sit or, preferably, recline, lying on her left side to improve blood flow to both mother and baby. If the same activity causes this reaction more than twice, it is probably best to avoid that activity for the remainder of the pregnancy. Some activities that are more prone to induce fainting include suspension and standing bondage, especially if mom locks her knees or if there is also flogging or spanking.

The belly should be avoided as a "strike zone" for any kind of play with whips, floggers, paddles or other spanking tools. While it may not appear to cause any damage, the skin of the abdomen is very "friable" and will tend to tear or split more easily. Also, the increased blood supply overall, along with the body's blood thin-



**The belly
should be avoided as a
"strike zone" for
any kind of play with
...spanking tools**

ners to make that larger flow move more easily throughout the body will make a pregnant woman more prone to bruising or heavier bleeding. This issue may also come up during spankings, whippings or floggings or other play that may break skin on other parts of the body. Again, there may be a tendency to bleed more freely or to bruise more deeply. It should be understood that kicking, punching or other direct force to the abdomen should be *completely off limits* during pregnancy. There is a perception that the fluid surrounding the baby (the amniotic sac) will protect it. This is only partially true — it *will* protect the baby from some traumas, but will not protect the placenta or the uterus from damage. The risk of the placenta tearing away from the wall of the uterus (called abruption) is extremely high, resulting in the loss of blood supply to the baby, and the baby's death.

Abruption also results in hemorrhage in the mother, and may result in the loss of her uterus or even her death. Striking the abdomen during pregnancy is *not* play! There is little way of knowing for an individual woman how much is too much, so it is much better to avoid than to risk complications by trying "just a little" and finding out later that it was too much!

The breasts should be treated cautiously. During pregnancy, the blood vessels in the breasts increase in quantity and capacity in preparation for milk production. While breast play during pregnancy could actually help to stimulate this development, caution must be exercised so that the breasts are not bruised or cut. In addition, for women who have a history of miscarriage, premature labor, or who are in their last trimester, stimulation of the breasts may cause release of hormones that can initiate labor. If breast play seems to induce strong cramping or contractions, it would be wise to refrain from nipple stimulation until you speak with your care provider.

Penetration

Penetration is another issue that must be handled cautiously during pregnancy. Care must be taken to make sure that any toys used for penetration are kept immaculately clean. Using a condom over dildoes or vibrators is a good practice to get into in any case, but is mandatory during pregnancy. Fisting and other forms of extremely aggressive penetration activities should be watched carefully, and the fister must *always* be gloved. While these activities are fine for some women, others may experience spotting, cramping, and premature labor from aggressive stimulation of the cervix during pregnancy.

Pregnancy is a wonderful time for intercourse, without having to worry about getting pregnant. However, in some women, it may be prudent to wear a condom any-

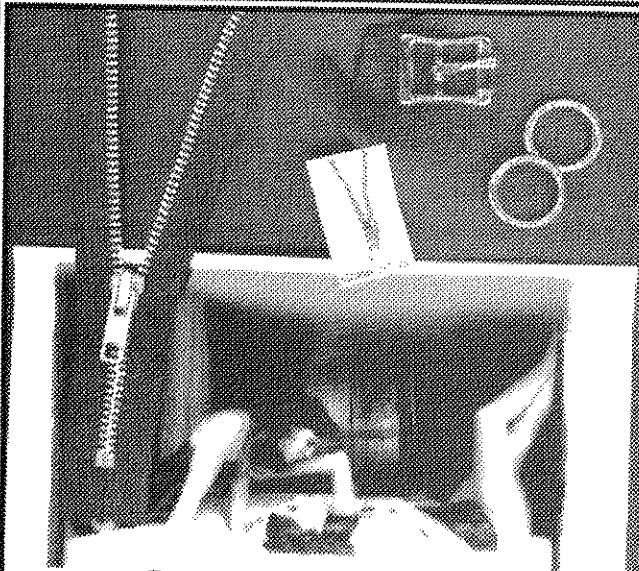
When scening with a pregnant woman, stress is also an issue ... whether she is Topping or bottoming

way, even though pregnancy is not an issue. In women with a history of yeast infection, urinary tract infection or premature labor, the ejaculate may trigger problems. Additionally, a mom-to-be must be encouraged to urinate within 15 minutes of any penetrative activity, in order that bacteria and/or yeast do not get into the urethra and the bladder. A yeast infection or bacterial infection of the bladder can complicate pregnancy by causing premature labor or kidney infections that can have serious repercussions for both mother and baby.

Stress — as Top or bottom

When scening with a pregnant woman, stress is also an issue. It is very important to assure, whether she is Topping or bottoming, that breaks are taken every twenty minutes or so. It is also critical that food and drink be available at each break so her blood sugar levels stay stable, and that she does not become dehydrated. At the beginning of this article, I explained about the increase in blood supply, and the in-

continued on pg 22

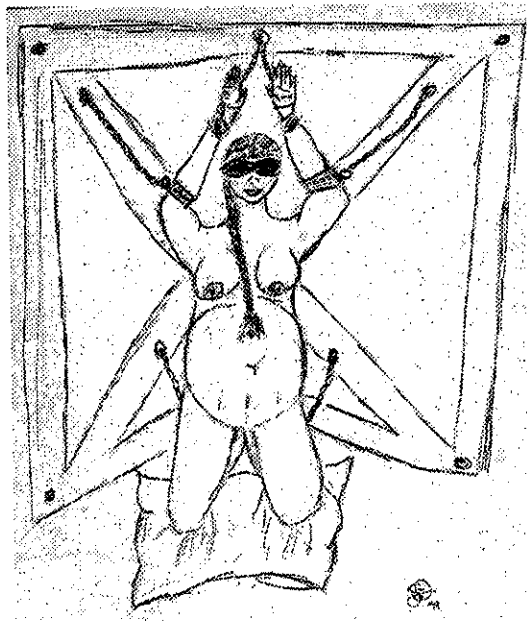


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Scening in Pregnancy

continued from pg 21

creased demands, particularly, on the kidneys and adrenals. A mom-to-be under stress will have an increase in blood pressure and heart rate. This



happens to any of us when we are under stress or in high activity. However, when this happens to a pregnant woman, the body gives oxygen and nutrients to organs like the heart, lungs and brain of the mom first. The uterus, placenta and growing baby are not considered "vital" when the body is in a stress situation. This means that prolonged stress can result in reduced oxygen supply to the baby. If this happens often enough, the baby's development will suffer, leading to difficulties after it is born. In addition, this situation can result in premature birth or problems that are more serious.

Lastly, electrical play is also contraindicated during pregnancy. It is not yet clear what effect violet wands, prods or other electrical conduction devices may have on a pregnancy, but it is clear that the mater-

nal and fetal electrical systems are on a very fine trigger, and may be disturbed by even small changes. It is much better to avoid these than to take unnecessary risks.

These are the most common issues to consider during pregnancy. Always remember that, although mom can consent to play, the baby cannot. It is important to be aware of the responsibility to make safe and positive choices for all parties during pregnancy. It is also important to get good prenatal care and to establish a rapport with your care provider. If the mom-to-be is told that she has risk factors in place with her pregnancy, ask what restrictions are specific to

her situation—and then *follow them!* If anything looks questionable, especially if she develops a fever, spotting, cramping, or has a gush of liquid during play, or if mom starts having problems with headaches, swelling, dizziness or pounding pulse, take her to see her care provider immediately — even if that means a trip to the emergency room.

Creative alternatives

Get creative as the pregnancy grows, and use this time to explore new areas of training and discipline. If mom is restricted from certain activities, find new ways to explore this area of your lives.

Some truly wonderful activities during pregnancy take advantage of the fact that, for many pregnant women, especially in their second (3.5 to 6th months) or third (7 months to delivery) trimesters the libido and nerve endings are in high

gear. Oral sex, either given or received is a wonderful part of foreplay. Just remember not to blow into or around the vaginal opening. The area has an increase in blood vessels and there is a possibility of an air embolism from air forced into the vagina. This is also the perfect time to teach a submissive how to pleasure their Dom/me with mouth and hands or vibrators (which can be

variations of hands and knees positions provide easy access

used effectively on men or women) — a real benefit for the Top who is restricted from penetration of the submissive (or vice versa) because of complications. Remember, though, that in cases of premature labor, a woman may be instructed to avoid orgasm (since it is a contraction of the uterus). Be sure you know what the health limits are before you begin play, for everyone's comfort and safety.

Experiment with new positions. Several variations of hands and knees positions provide easy access, without fear of excessive pressure on the growing uterus. Also, positions in which the penetrating partner lies behind the receiving partner or lies cross-ways with the recipient's legs over the penetrator and the penetrator half-way on his/her side is convenient, effective and creative. This is also the ideal time to train your submissive in areas that do not revolve around sex, solidifying the skills of service, even for those submissives with extreme restrictions. Common sense can go a long way toward protecting Dom/me, sub and the baby and making the outcome pleasurable:

During Labor

Additionally, during labor, the use of the control techniques that a Top has trained into their submissive, in many cases, can allow the submissive to release in labor and hasten the birthing process. Sexual intercourse, even for moms who had been avoiding it for fear of premature labor, is often a very effective tool during labor-and is a wonderful reason to not go rushing to the hospital at the first sign of contractions! Make sure that her water hasn't broken before any penetrative activity, and talk to your midwife or doctor if you are comfortable. (If not, feel free to write me for recommendations during labor)

For the Dom/me whose submissive is about to become a mother, be aware that she depends on you to direct her behaviors. You can influence greatly her appreciation of

**Respect that she may be tired
and have special needs or desires.**

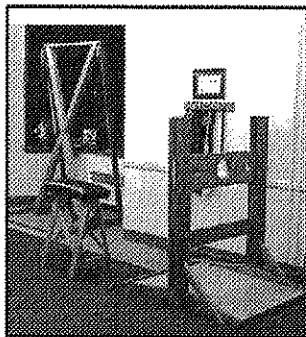
her pregnancy, the gift of this baby to you as her Dom/me, and her willingness to serve you by protecting your submissive during this special time. For the submissive whose Domme is expecting, this is a time to make your affection for her and your service to her count. Show your Domme that you love her and love to serve her. Respect that she may be tired and have special needs or desires. She may even require that you change behaviors that may not have bothered her before, but do now. Serving her through her pregnancy in these little ways will bring fulfillment to you as a submissive, and will bring pleasure to her as your Domme. ❖

(Storm Weaver, known in the

scene as zephyr, is an ordained minister and Naturopathic Physician, as well as a midwife with over thirteen years experience. She is the Director of Operations for LightWays Wellness Collective, which is a wholistic wellness center in Durham, No. Carolina. Rev. Weaver lives as a 24/7 Gorean slave, with her two Masters and Mistress. Her Mistress is a Homeopathic physician, and is the General Manager of the Collective. Rev. Weaver teaches and lectures locally on the life of a Gorean kajira (slave), serving multiple Owners, First Aid in the Scene and Polyamory, Health and Spirituality issues. Questions can be emailed to her here at The Guardian or to: phantomfire @mindspring.com or lightways @mindspring.com.)

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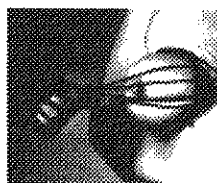
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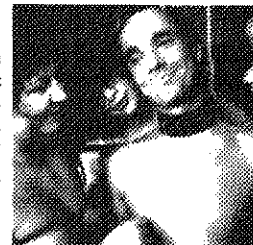
by Michael Rosen

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Breast Play with the Single Tail



by "Dr Mike"

The beauty of using the single tail whip on a woman's breasts is that the impact is concentrated at the surface, so the deep tissues are not damaged. It is easy to avoid breaking the skin by selecting a whip of the proper length and learning to use it precisely. In heavy breast play there is risk that the underlying structures will be damaged, causing internal scarring, or that the skin will be broken allowing an infection or surface scar.

Using a single tailed whip on breasts should be considered "advanced" BDSM play. In order to do it safely, the Top will have to invest many hours of practice on inanimate objects in order to learn how to aim precisely and judge the force of impact. A classic test is to

strike a two inch sticky note attached to a wall or door. Make a crease just below the adhesive part so that the rest of the paper sticks out from the surface. If you can hit

A short whip with a nylon cracker is ideal, with or without a leather fall.

the paper in the center almost every time, you are ready to start on people. Begin on backs or butts until you can judge the force well enough to entirely avoid breaking the skin.

The Single Tail

A short whip with a nylon cracker is ideal, with or without a leather fall. The ones with the cracker braided into the whip are sometimes called "signal whips", as they are used to signal sled dogs. Those with a fall are also called snake whips. In general, a four-foot long whip will break the skin with a fairly hard stroke. A three-foot whip may not. I find the shorter whip is also easier to use in a confined indoor space, and is usually better for breast play. This general rule may vary, depending on the construction of the whip. Some whips come from the braider in an extremely stiff condition. This may require use of leather dressing or softening agents. If you have the option, buy one that is already soft and pliable.

Position and Technique

The ideal position for breast whipping is with the subject standing. If bondage is included, I like to fasten the wrist cuffs together and pull them toward the ceiling. Unless you are very confident in your abilities, it is a good idea to protect the face. Due to the downward arc of the stroke, anything above the target is in danger of being hit accidentally. If using the standing bondage position, leave enough slack so the elbows can be brought together at face level. You can also protect the face with a towel or even a baseball cap with the brim angled downward. The standing position assumes that the subject will hold still. If not, she should be secured with her back to a post or cross. During the late phase of the scene, accuracy is critical and a her movement could cause a stroke to go awry.

Good lighting is important for seeing the precise point of impact. The tip of the nylon cracker is very hard to see when it is in motion. Do not engage in this form of play in dimly lit dungeons. Use a white popper for better visibility. (See Issue #19 for instruction on how to make your own poppers and #33 for diagrams on How to Tie One On.)

Like most forms of pain play, some kind of warm up is preferred. Most of the warm up should involve other parts of the body. Do your paddling or spanking first. Soft breast floggers can be a nice inter-

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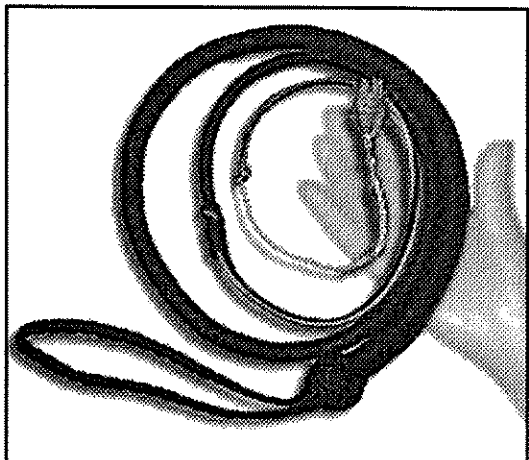
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mediate step. When you are finally ready, hold the whip about a foot from the tip and apply many gentle strokes to the breasts, alternating between left and right. Do not *begin* with maximum force strokes.

Gradually move your hand back from the tip until you are near the handle. This will slowly increase the force of the strokes in a way that will not unduly frighten your partner. Then grasp the handle and



The "pocket snake" whip. This was made by the man who is in the **Guinness Book of World Records** for making and cracking the "longest whip in the world" (186.5'!). The Signal whip does not have the separate fall for the cracker. It is braided into the thong.

apply slow, deliberate strokes that allow the cracker to fall almost gently onto the breasts. It is actually harder to aim these gentle strokes than the stronger ones, but accuracy is not critical at this point.

When you and your partner are ready, increase the power of the strokes until the desired effect is achieved. The maximum safe force should create marks that begin as pink lines about four inches long. The lines turn dark red after five to ten minutes. They may look like blood blisters, but are actually shallow bruises. Some women will accept or even enjoy strokes on the

A good stopping point is when most strokes start landing on top of existing marks

nipples. If not, protect them with heavy pieces of tape. Due to the nature of the stroke, it is difficult to hit the underside of the breasts. In a typical session, the whip marks will form a fan centered on the nipple. In my opinion, these are some of the prettiest marks that you will see from any BDSM play. The shallow bruises will slowly blend together and disappear in about ten days. In some cases, thin white lines may last up to three months. It is sometimes difficult to know when to stop due to the endorphin effect on the recipient. A good stopping point is when most strokes start landing on top of existing marks.

Prior to playing, you should find out if your partner has experienced any permanent scarring from previous play episodes. Scarring can be visible on the skin, or it may just feel like toughened tissue beneath the skin. A history of scar formation should be considered a warning sign and scarring from repeated bruising may interfere with mammography. As you can see this is not for beginners. Nevertheless, it can be a safe and sane form of BDSM play if reasonable limits are observed.

(Dr. Mike got the sobriquet in the Portland OR community, not because he is an MD, but because he is involved in the health care field — and he likes to "play doctor." He can be reached by email to: mb@e-z.net or contact him here at The Guardian.)

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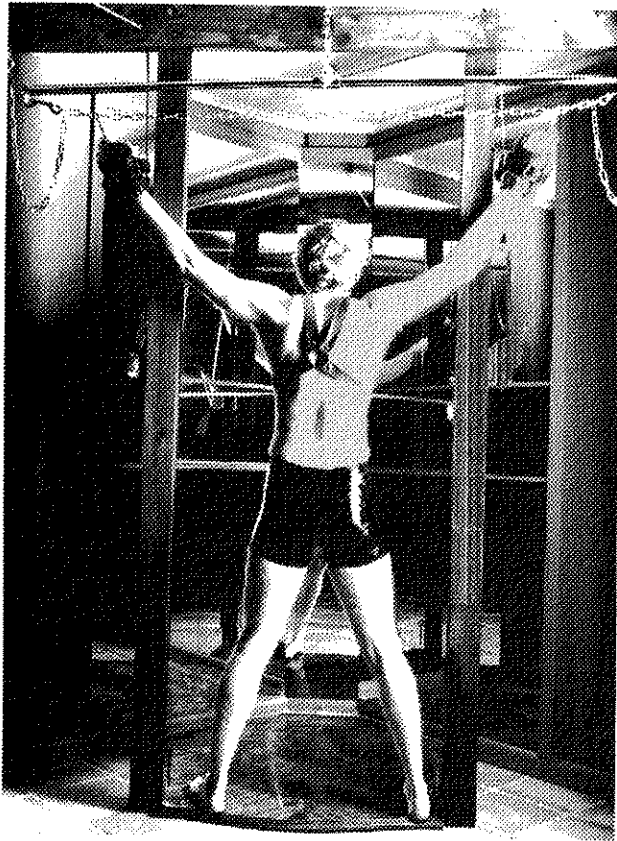
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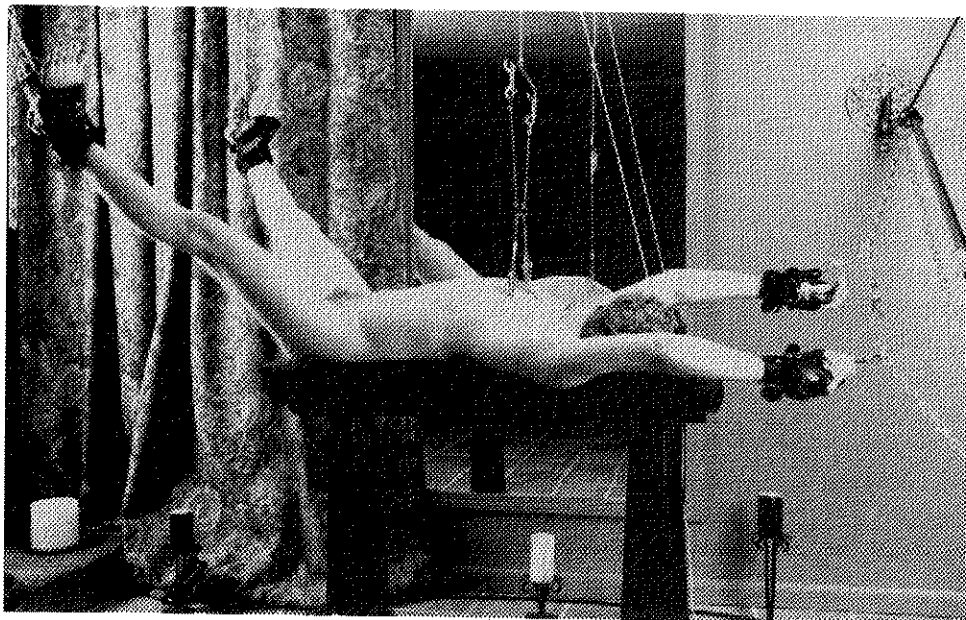
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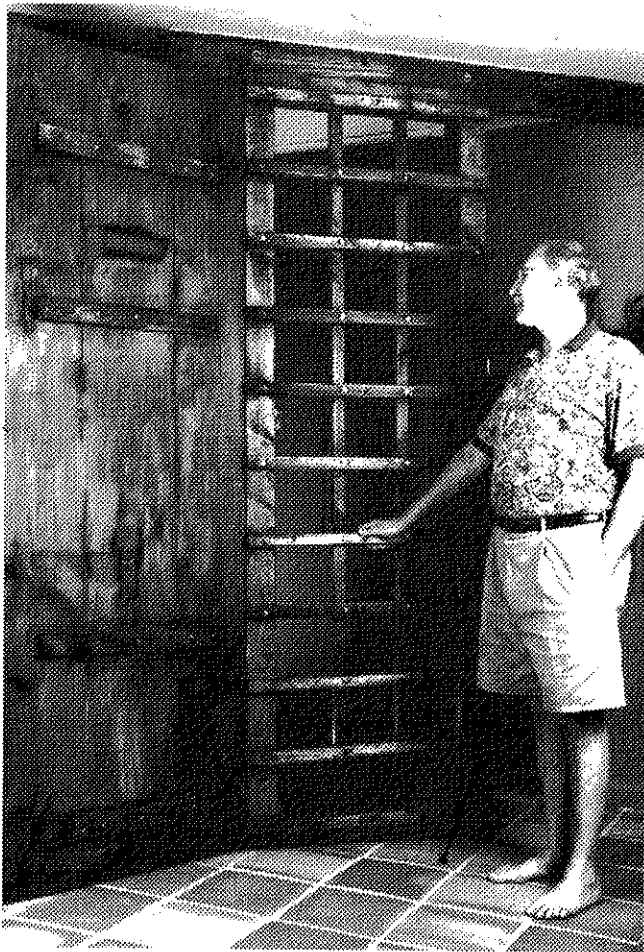


Southern Hospitality BDSM Style



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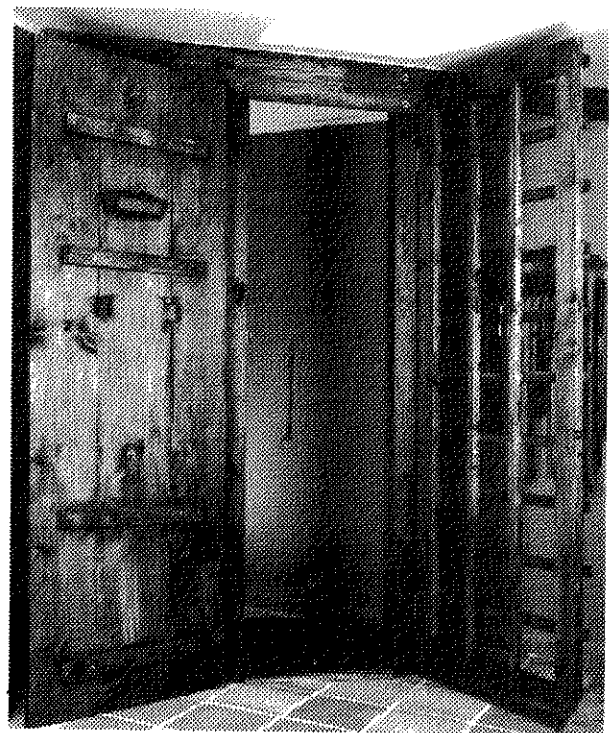
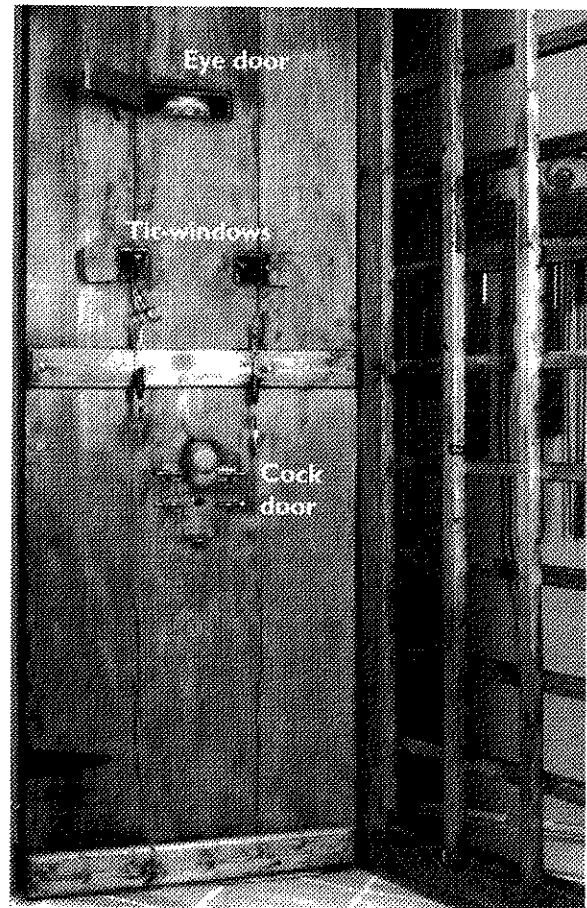


Tucked away in an annex to the main house, is this dungeon space which makes creative use of each inch of space in the small room.

Each corner has a main feature: The three position cage and the multi-use gallows. Between them is an area with a spanking/bondage bench sitting atop two antique dining room table pedestals. Mirrors help to give a feeling of spaciousness to the areas.

The unusual cage has both a floor to ceiling grated door and a solid door with specially designed openings for the eyes, nipples and penis of the occupant. (Made to measure for the man of the house, of course!)

As seen in the photo above, Louis is rightly proud of his unusual dungeon and loves to show it off to visiting friends.



The Steel Cockring Getting it on

by Mitch Kessler

One of the most ancient and universal sex-toys is a solid ring, slipped over either the cock alone, or the cock and balls together.

Its benefits include:

Adornment: ... the ring simply decorates the package.

Enhancement: ... the ring constricts the base of the penis causing engorgement (swelling) while it pushes the ball sack forward making the whole bundle appear larger and more prominent.

Sensation: ... the pressure of the ring feels good ... or not.

Symbolism: ... it's a RING for heaven's sake ... a reminder of ownership or connection — it's just that this one is *felt* rather than seen.

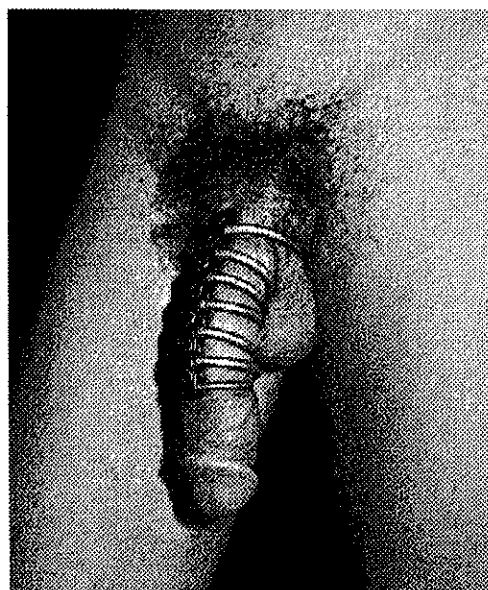
Creativity and Competition: ... how many can you wear and how small can you go?

But, putting on a cockring so that it stays on, without *too much* discomfort is not one of those self-evident truths that everyone figures out for themselves ... especially considering that *not* all men are created equal.

In this case, the Natural Inequality to be overcome, is not the length or the thickness of the penis shaft, but the size

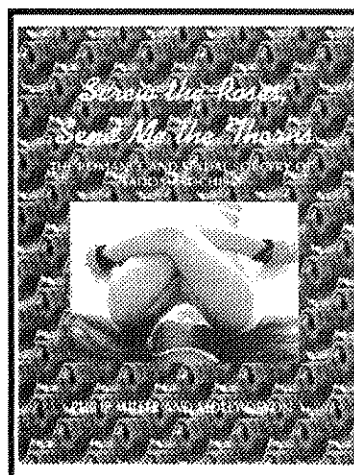
of the larger of the two testicles. That plus a little breathing room is the smallest size ring a man can get on and wear, assuming he does not become too erect due to becoming excited by the idea or the sensation of wearing a cockring ... or from the inescapable manipulation of the cock and balls especially when the ring is put on by a partner.

In theory, this poses a safe-



ty issue. Sometimes the sexual excitement and the constriction at the base of the penis combine to create an erection that simply will not go away. In addition, both urination and ejaculation become fraught with fear and discomfort.

While this is sometimes the whole point of putting on a cockring, the combination of a small ring and a vastly swelling shaft can be, first painful, then numbing, and after several hours, there can even be tissue damage due to lack of blood circulation bringing oxygen and nutrients to the penis and testicles. In theory, gangrene is a possibility. Most of the time, simply "thinking about something else" for a few minutes solves the problem. Sometimes a little brisk exercise is called for. If a brisk walk around the block doesn't make the ring fall off by itself ... the anticipation of explaining the problem in the Emergency Room causes the ring to drop off during the trip there. If the *sight* of the six-foot bolt cutters kept in the ER for handcuff and padlock misadven-



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by Molly Devon & Philip Miller

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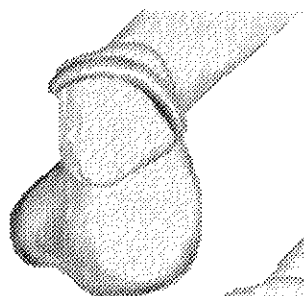
tures doesn't release the ring, emergency medical equipment includes a "ring cutter" ... normally used to remove partially crushed finger-rings without further damage.

Realizing that there IS always a way out, here is how to put one on:

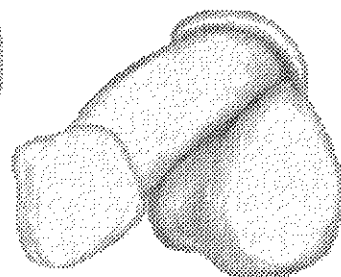


First: Starting on side of the larger testicle pull as much of the scrotal sac

through the ring as is comfortable. This can be done while standing or sitting. Often the bigger nut will just drop through the ring. Alternatively it can be coaxed or sucked through.

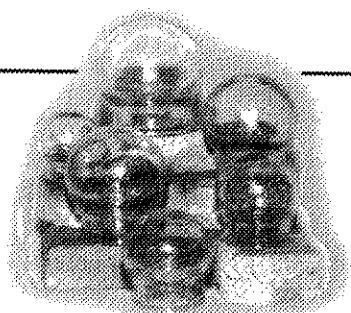


Then: Pull the rest of the sac through the ring. The smaller testicle should follow with a minimum of coaxing. At this point, if there is erection it must be allowed to subside, so that the penis can be pushed "back" into the body.



Illustrations by Molly Devon

Finally: The head of the penis is pushed "downward" under the ring and pulled forward through it. Because the solid ring is pressing on soft but sturdy tissues, astonishingly small rings can be worn by surprisingly large men!

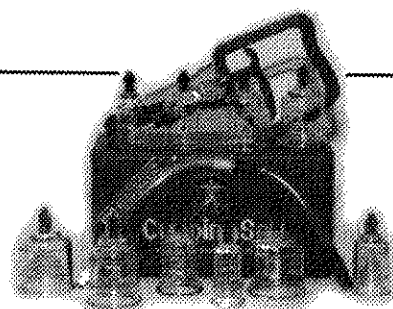


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Caning Platform

How to secure a sub for a caning by Eric C

Thought I'd share this with you: It's probably not original, but I've just discovered it, and it's the best I've ever used! Beauty of it, too, is that it improvises from things you'd find available in just about every household.



Centre-piece is the kitchen table! The one I used was admittedly 'largish' but I reckon you could use even a very small one, depending on the sub's stature.

Place two pillows on the table — one for the knees, one for the elbows. The sub climbs carefully onto table (with assistance, particularly if blindfolded) and settles into position with knees and elbows on the pillows. Next, a broom handle is placed across the legs just behind the knees, and a second broom-stick in the crook of the arms at the elbow joint. The broom-sticks are secured in place by passing ropes (I used two dressing-gown cords!) beneath the table. Finally, wrists and ankles are secured to the table legs. We used lengths of sash-cord and cloth belts.

The result was awesome! The height was perfect, allowing a slight upper-cut to the strokes. But what was even better, was that the

sub was completely restrained and yet not tied tightly.

Ah yes, evening meals on that table will never be the same again!

The "Chili Con-Carnal" Game

This diabolical refinement grew out of the table-top caning position, so I'll begin by setting the stage.

With my partner on her knees and elbows atop the table, her buttocks were at the ideal height and angle for a bit of corporal play. If your partner tries to be cute and squat down, then slide a drum under his or her belly.

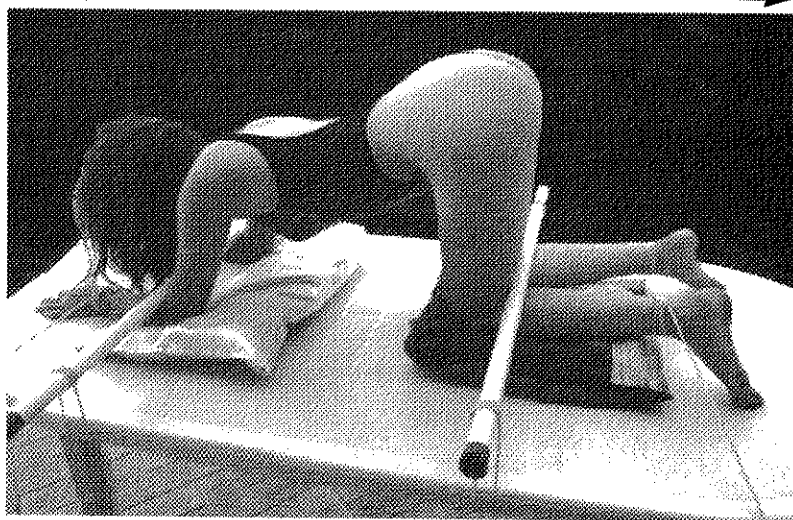
Okay, that's her in position, with reasonable access to her anus.

Now for the fun:

Produce a packet of jelly-beans, and tell the sub you're about to insert one (not in the mouth). Ignore any protestations. (Gawd! Is this some childhood fetish returning?)

Blindfold your partner, and with a suitably lubricated gloved-finger, *pretend* that she is being violated anally by a jelly-bean. Now remove the blindfold and say "Let's do that again."

Produce a jar of chili-powder, a saucer, and some empty gelatine capsules (obtained from unwanted medication). At a sufficient distance from the sub's face (so chili dust isn't inhaled) and also with gloved fingers, proceed to fill the capsules with chili powder. All this is happening before her eyes, which are beginning to widen in disbelief!

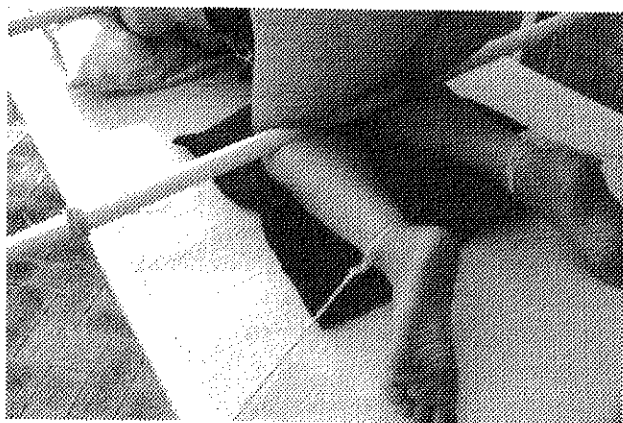
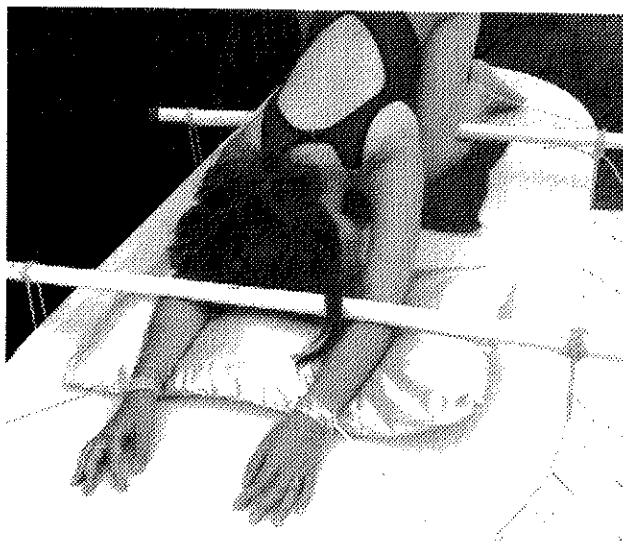


"Do it *again*? What? ... You mean? — Oh, shit! You didn't! You wouldn't! Oh, you bastard Eric, I'll never talk to you again. You wouldn't dare - would you," as you move toward her rear, holding the filled capsule menacingly.

At this stage, you "relent," discard the capsule, remove the gloves, and release her from her restraints. Glance at your watch, and say casually, "Well, gelatin capsules in the human rectum take about two hours to dissolve," (or whatever period of time you wish the torture to last). "You'll be on the bus going home about then, won't you?"

Maybe she'll talk to you again. ... Maybe not. ❖

*(Eric and his partner live in Perth in Western Australia. They enjoy experimenting with new ideas and sharing them with others. You can contact them here at **The Guardian**.)*

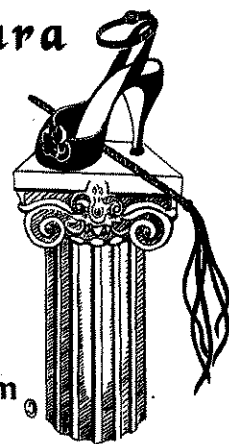


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BOOK REVIEW

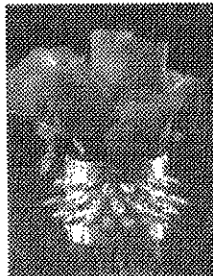
by Steve Vakesh

A Defense of Masochism by Anita Phillips,

(N.Y.: St. Martin's, 1998),
Hardcover, 165 pages,
\$22.95

Anita Phillips, a self-described masochist and the editor of the British journal *Interstice*, argues that masochism has been misunderstood for more than a century ... classified by psychiatrists as a pathology. This book is her effort to rescue it and place masochism back within the context of normal, healthy human experience. Phillips argues that it is time to end the tyranny of social scientists who pass judgment on who is, or is not, normal. Masochists are not victims or mentally ill, but conscious manipulators who know how to get what they need.

A Defense of MASOCHISM



ANITA PHILLIPS

It is important to note that Phillips defines masochism narrowly, limiting it to consensual BDSM play. For the outsider, she provides one of the best descriptions of how BDSM scenes proceed, their ritualized nature, and how they are negotiated and often scripted beforehand.

Phillips traces masochism's long literary history which predates the works of Leopold von Sacher-Masoch and identifies what she considers the positive elements that masochism contributes to one's life. Along with several recent studies,

Phillips links masochism to romantic love: Fictional heroes often suffer to prove their love. More interestingly, she also links masochism to creativity, arguing that most artists are masochists and that masochism is an essential ingredient in the process of artistic creation. Intense masochistic experiences tear down our mental boundaries and release what we keep hidden, unlocking the fount of our creativity. Masochism also protects you. Experiencing fear and pain in small doses helps inoculate you against the traumas the real world too often hands you.

Challenge is fundamental to self-improvement, and masochists by their nature seek out challenging experiences rather than avoiding them. Despite their interest in intense and often painful experiences, Phillips states that masochists should not be confused with martyrs. Martyrs carry their pain with them and learn nothing from it. They expect their suffering to lead to a transcendent experience. Masochists, despite their creativity, are realists. They reject transcendence and accept the world as it with all its pain, ugliness, and unfairness. "The only way out [for masochists] is *through*."

This interesting book paints a wonderfully positive and optimistic portrait of masochists. If I didn't know so many masochists that failed to fit her description, I might have been swayed. This is not to say that I disagree with the positive elements she argues masochism brings to life. Rather, I believe that most masochists are blind to what their perversion has to offer them. While Phillips likes masochists, sadists — at least real sadists rather than those merely interested in playing a role in a masochist's fantasy — scare her. So while masochists get rehabilitated, the evil sadists who enjoy abusing them get left in the closet. ♦

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BOOK REVIEW too by Justin Sherwood

To Love, To Obey, To Serve, by V.M. Johnson

(CT, Mystic Rose Books, 1999)
trade book, 337 pgs \$17.95

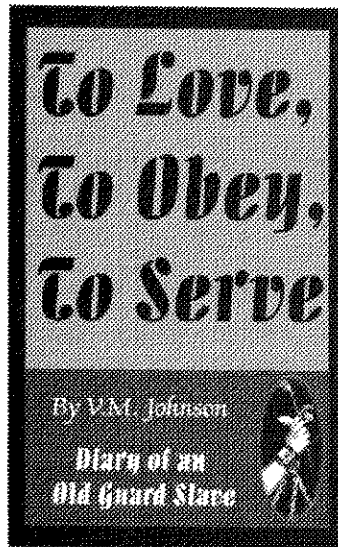
V.M. Johnson's second book, *To Love, To Obey, To Serve*, is the slow, steady, often painful story of one slave's journey through Leather's history. As difficult to read as it must have been to write, it is invaluable for the insights into our past that it provides.

Viola Johnson tells, through her journal, about life before our community required that Tops be sane, responsible individuals who recognize that slaves are only human. When Vi was a slave (her journal starts near the end of 1980 and she had started exploring slavery with her spouse, Jill, before that), slaves were expected to do whatever was necessary to bring honor and glory to their Masters and Mistresses. For Vi, whatever was necessary went well past general servitude, fetching, carrying and looking pretty, into commuting cross-country on a regular basis, run-in's with Mafiosi, and a flirtation with cocaine (in order to have the stamina to renovate an entire house).

These startling examples aside, what is perhaps most striking about Vi's journal is the sheer mundaneness of the life she led and the isolation in which she led it. Hers was not the stuff of which BDSM fantasy is written.

Here in her journal, among the all-too-rare descriptions of scenes, the range of feelings Vi had for each of her Mistresses (she only had 3 — other than Jill — over the course of almost 20 years) is given voice, and her frustration with trying to keep her life, and the lives of those she served, together is felt. Hers is a tale mainly of deprivation, of sensations, needs, wants, desires and emotions, smothered like an angry fire buried under the folds of a heavy, wet blanket.

It isn't until she is with her last Mistress (somewhat ironically the Mistress who re-entered her life well after the birth of the Leather Community as we know it today) that Vi is finally given permission to feel again, to open up and



love as she is loved, to know that unity with her Mistress and her soul that those of us in such relationships tend to take for granted.

Vi's journey is a unique one, through the time before the birth of the Leather Nation, into the creation of the National Leather Association and beyond. She notes, at one point, that she "sometimes shudder[s] at the high cost of being a slave." We do as well. But *To Love, To Serve, To Obey* is a story that begged to be told and begs to be listened to. ♦

(Justin Sherwood is the scene name of an active participant in organizational activities. Justin also has known Vi Johnson for a number of years.)

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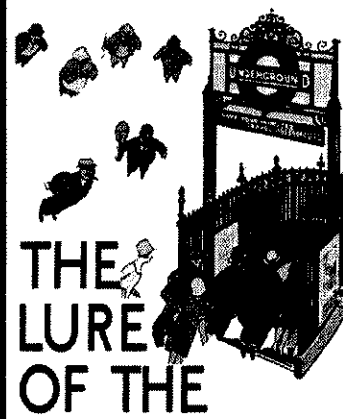
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THE LURE OF THE UNDERGROUND

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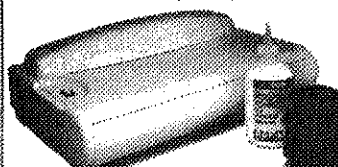


(Ed note: There appears to be a kinky person in the headline-writing department of Long Island's Newsday!)

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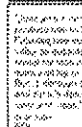


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Feeling Sting of the Switch

By Rafael Gerena-Morales
STAFF WRITER

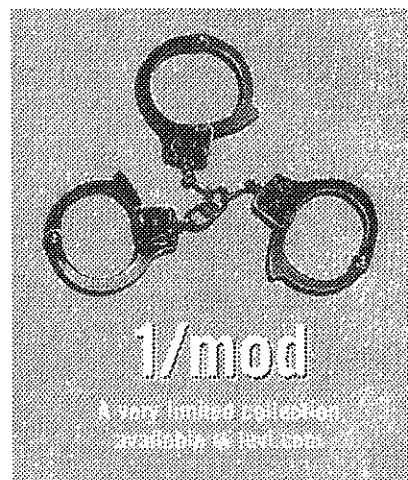
6-5-1 annoys Jeff Dasher.

The new Suffolk County area code irks the manager of Conklin Lumber in Farmingdale because he believes

phone records in his cellular phone, and he'll have to search for an area code every time his pager sounds.

"Nobody ever puts in the area code when they keep you," said Graham, 64, of Bay Shore, who sells as many as 20 customers a day as a scrap metal buyer for a Modford Station recycling company. "How will I know who's keep-

Would you believe the "switch" is to new area codes!? New York's 516 on Long Island is splitting into two areas next year.



From s benedick's beloved Captain, who tells us that the, "next three pages (in **Rolling Stone**) are Mod Squad actors in **Levi's** clothing. Interesting first page, though ... Capt. Beatrice" Thanks, folks.



Also in **Rolling Stone** and also from the Captain. Wonder what he's thinking?

Banned in Boston (& Burbank) ...

"Safety Nazis" can be found as easily in State legislatures as in Dungeon Master Corps. In the interests of protecting law abiding citizens from evil-doers, California and Massachusetts have outlawed double edged knives ... and "knives that do not look like knives" ... including the key chain novelties shown here from the **Smoky Mountain Knife Co.** catalog.



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Worse in New South Wales

The **Australian State of New South Wales** has recently amended their **Prohibited Weapons Act** to include the unlicensed ownership of handcuffs, "other than antique handcuffs or children's toys of an approved type" and, "**any whip that consists of a handle to which there are attached any number of knotted lashes.**" Also banned by this act are, "replicas of any firearm which requires a license under the Firearms Act," and, "**whips that have a lash which is formed wholly or partly of metal.**" This last provision applies to various martial arts weapons, but also to a large number of weighted Australian performer's stock whips. Obtaining a permit to possess these prohibited weapons requires "proving" a "genuine reason" for owning or using them to local Sydney police authorities!

Defending the Act and the arrests, the **Assistant Deputy Police Commissioner** said, "Tough action is needed to stop violent crime..." and that this law, "protect(s) people by taking more prohibited weapons out of the community." This law, said Commander Collins, "did not infringe the rights of those who have a legitimate reasons to possess or use a prohibited weapon."

So far, at least two New South Wales men have been charged with illegally possessing floggers and face up to fourteen years imprisonment and a fine of up to AU\$11,000.00! ♦

Pornographers May Go Down, Under

The Australian government may institute a ratings system for sexually explicit material and ban hard-core porn sites by June.

The government says the system will merely extend existing ratings on books and movies to cyberspace. But opponents say the plan may hobble e-commerce and will give Australia a reputation like that of China.

Under the proposed legislation, Australian Web sites featuring soft-core porn would be rated for content by a government agency and would need to verify the adult status of all viewers. At the same time, Australian ISPs would be required to remove

hard-core material from their systems and would be liable to demands from the Australian Broadcasting Authority to block access to certain overseas sites.



Australian ISPs, naturally, are against this idea. They say control over internet content should be exercised at home, not by the state. And because Australia produces a relatively small amount of internet pornography, the ISPs will have to monitor a lot of Web traffic from overseas, which could degrade overall performance and hinder the internet's future in Australia.

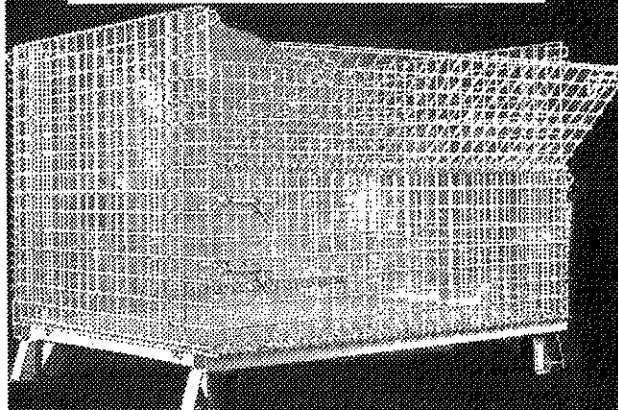
— *Siemens Teggart, Sydney*

This information was forwarded by **The Guardian's** "Aussie correspondent," **Michael Masterson.**

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Also from **Harbor Freight**, this mummifying wrap sticks to itself but comes off easily. Thanks **Captain Beatrice**.

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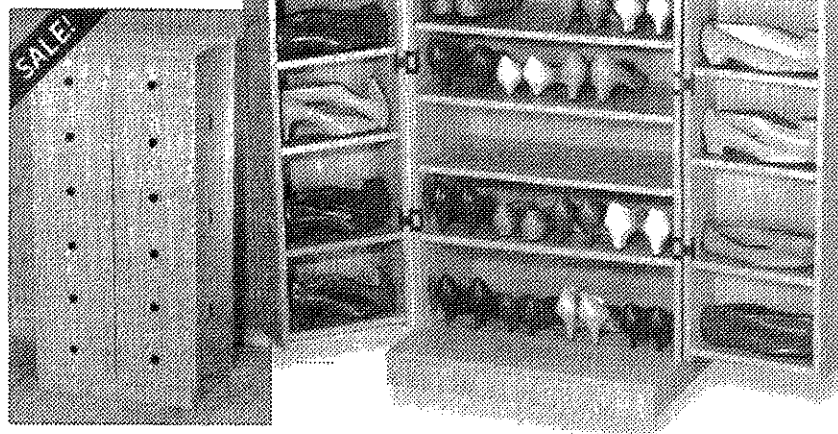
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Then, imagine this cabinet *without* the center shelves. Plenty of hanging room for floggers and single tails. The side shelves can hold lots of small stuff, especially if you attach a few bungee cords across the openings. When it's closed, people will think you are another Imelda Marcos!

It's only one of several models we have seen in various catalogs that would suit the dungeon storage purpose. Keep your eyes open for others.

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Updates from everywhere

The Defamation of Character case brought against GMSMA by Chris Scanlon is still waiting for Federal Judge Constance Baker Motley to begin the discovery process and set a trial date. "Justice delayed" may be "justice denied" but under the current state of affairs, Scanlon continues to enjoy "victim's bragging rights" and GMSMA continues to benefit from "sympathy fund raising" opportunities. Meanwhile scene authors and photographers in the New York area continue to express "confusion" about their copyrights.



The National Coalition for Sexual Freedom informs us that, although the Massachusetts State Circuit Court has twice overturned "Quality of life/Zoning" arguments for closing Restraints a "dungeon" in Somerville, the town's Mayor David Ragucci, has informed local newspapers that the closing of this club will receive his highest priority in the months to come. He cites its proximity to schools and churches as

among the reasons for his concern. The club's owner and the town's mayor have not responded to *The Guardian's* attempts to learn more about the situation. Restraints apparently continues to operate unmolested.

Once it was established that club owners indeed were taping the dungeon activities of their guests at Club Heart (also known as the Alternative Lifestyle Community House) in Kissimmee, Florida, *The Guardian* has heard nothing further from them or their erstwhile supporters concerning the progress of the case, except to learn that charges against one of the three, Jack Heart, have been dropped. The issue of whether it is legal to charge money for sadomasochistic performances has not been settled. The State's Attorney says it is; but the Osceola County Police are not yet convinced.

Carter Stevens, publisher of *Cosmopolitan Domination* and *The S & M News* informs us that Hearst Publications' legal department has moved toward making an offer to withdraw their lawsuit seeking "ownership" of the word "Cosmopolitan." Details remain unfinalized, but the intent of the deal would be for Hearst to offer Stevens cash consideration to cease using the word in the title of his magazine. Carter's difficulties in obtaining venues for his Spanker and BDSM "Fling" events in the State of Pennsylvania continue. Apparently, Robert Uguccione and the Pocono Mountains Vacation Bureau have a long and powerful reach. Stevens is considering Defamation action against *The Pocono Record* newspaper and its reporters for misrepresenting the activities at these events, thereby causing the current situation.

❖

BOUDOIR NOIR MAGAZINE RISES AGAIN

Boudoir Noir, the nonfiction magazine about consensual leather lifestyles, is back! Founder Robert Dante has announced a co-publication agreement with Bill Majors, of Los Angeles-based Bon Vue Enterprises/*B&D Pleasures*. The long-awaited 18th issue of the magazine was released in June and marks the resumption of its quarterly publication. The new format will include colour pages. Current subscribers to *Boudoir Noir* will continue to receive the magazine which had folded temporarily last year after several distributors defaulted on payments and a major merchandiser declared bankruptcy. As a consequence, the Canadian-based magazine experienced a cash-flow crisis which almost ended the publication. *Boudoir Noir*, which started in 1993, will be available by mail and at select retail outlets. Boudoir Noir at Bon Vue: (310) 631-1600.

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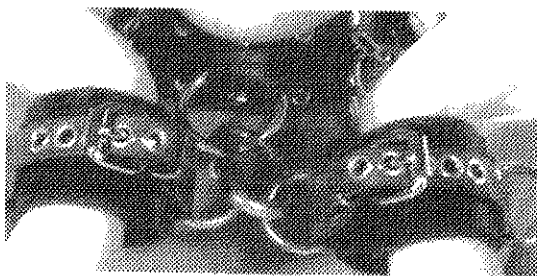
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BDSM in the Bible Belt or Bondage With Bubbah

by Carolyn & Steve Vakesh



The southern states, especially those that make up the so called "Bible Belt" (or Mid-South), have a reputation through-out the United States as a social and cultural backwater populated by racists, fundamentalists, and other right-wing fanatics. As with most generalizations, there is some truth to this, but southern society is actually fairly diverse. Most major southern cities have active gay and lesbian organizations as well as BDSM groups. This is not to say that they are as large and active as those of New York or California, or even Ohio, but they do exist, and they are growing larger — even in the Bible Belt — though they are not without their problems.

There are active and growing BDSM groups in Memphis, Nashville, Little Rock. Even Jackson, Mississippi boasts a group that has met regularly for several years. Groups are forming in many smaller communities including Knoxville and Tupelo. While similar to their counterparts around the nation, they have given BDSM their own unique slant. Courtesy, so much a staple of southern society, is a rule in the BDSM community here as well.

Southerners, with only a few exceptions, are courteous to a fault. Discussions and debates within their groups are restrained. Outbursts of temper are rare and frowned upon. Decisions are usually based on consensus. When consensus fails, groups are more likely to split than to remain functioning with opposing parties.

The old values of thrift and frugality are also alive and well in the Bible Belt. A far higher than normal percentage of BDSMers make their own toys here, and on the average do a respectable job — they're not pretty to look at, but they get the job done. Goods in tack shops are quite cheap here, so there's a much higher than normal amount of riding crops and perverted horse gear. Most people, though, own very few toys. Golf-bag sized

toy bags hauled in by teams of adoring slaves are unheard of here. So too are the names of the most famous of the toy and fetish clothing manufacturers.

Boasting about your latest acquisitions from Heartwood, Paul C, or Adam and Gillian will meet with blank stares. At worst, you will be considered a snob. Materialism is definitely out.

***Southerners, ...
are courteous to a fault.
Outbursts of temper are
rare and frowned upon.***

Privacy is very important to Southerners to begin with but many members of BDSM groups live in terror of being discovered. Most groups engage in little local advertising. Several do have web pages, but few of these are well advertised or even reported to search engines. As with the groups themselves, you have to know where to look to find them. A number of groups are virtually impossible to find. In Memphis, for example, apart from the more approachable groups, of which there are at least three, there is a super secret group. It requires a recommendation from a current member to attend its meetings, and changes its meeting site every month to avoid discovery. (It also makes it possible to "lose" an undesirable attendee.) The mere mention of the existence of a BDSM group in Memphis on a radio talk show, sent Memphis'

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Bondage with Bubbah

continued from pg 39

largest group scurrying to a new meeting site even though its current meeting site was never revealed nor even its name.

Just because you're paranoid, doesn't mean you don't have enemies. Mid-Southerners are not particularly afraid of law enforcement officials, unlike many mid-westerners who have good reason to fear overzealous police breaking up their parties. Several pay-at-the-door dungeons here operate in blissful ignorance of the laws regulating such entities. In the Bible Belt the big fear is vigilante church groups and self-appointed protectors of public morality. These people routinely mobilize their co-religionists to picket the homes of people they consider indecent, out them to the press, and their employers, and generally make their lives miserable. At least with the police you have legal recourse. These folks are much more dangerous and willing to spring into action on the slightest of evidence or even rumor.

All BDSM groups screen their members to some extent, but in the Bible Belt people taking this vetting process very seriously. Virtually all the groups require you to go out to dinner or some such and be checked out by two or three of their members before being invited to a meeting. Play parties are even stricter and much harder to get invited to. People are routinely denied membership for reasons having nothing to do with their BDSM interests, personal character, or absence of hygiene. In Memphis one person was recently denied entry to a group simply because a coworker was already a member. A security risk was assumed with neither proof nor

discussion.

While most groups claim to be pansexual, there is a clear bias against gay men in many of them. In the Midwest roughly one third to one half of the members of pansexual groups identified themselves as gay or lesbian. In the Bible Belt it is closer to one tenth. There is also a

Several cities have rival groups whose members refuse to speak to one another

clear bias in many groups against dominant women. Women, often regardless of attire or demeanor, are assumed to be submissive. One group in Memphis routinely weeded out dominant women. Another in Nashville does the same. Dominant women who manage to attend these groups' meetings are made to feel so uncomfortable that they leave and never return. Other groups aren't as extreme, but dominant women appear at less than half their ratio elsewhere in the United States. They also meet with far more than the norm of proposals to submit to men to "find out what they are missing."

The combined membership of Memphis' three largest groups totals over one hundred members, yet only one of these people is African-American. This is certainly odd for a city that is roughly three-quarters African-American.

We've seen the same ratio at other southern events and meetings. Despite their large percentage of the South's urban populations, few

African-Americans have joined BDSM groups. This is not to say that African-Americans are not under-represented in the BDSM groups of other regions; their absence is quite evident. In the South, though, it is even more so, because they represent a higher percentage of the population. On a similar note, inter-racial couples are frequently cause for comment within the BDSM community, though not on the scale with which outside society greets them and with no overt harassment.

Bible Belt groups suffer from many of the same political problems as other BDSM groups. Several cities have rival groups whose members refuse to speak to one another or coordinate activities. As in other parts of the country, these percolate outward, forming strange alliances with groups in other cities. For example, Memphis' largest group recently shattered into several smaller ones. Its largest fragment will associate with one of Nashville's groups but not the other. The other Nashville group associates with a different Memphis splinter faction, but none of the others. Groups in other nearby cities are starting to choose up sides.

When it comes to larger BDSM political issues, Bible Belt groups are in the dark. They know little about the Spanner or Houghton cases, or other important legal issues for our community. They engage in virtually none of the common BDSM political activities. You won't find them marching in local Gay Rights parades or helping at their fund raisers. Neither will you find them helping out or raising money for battered women's shelters, AIDS charities, or any of the other social causes commonly supported by the BDSM community.

*Here almost every group
was founded by
a relative novice*

It is quite difficult to find magazines like *The SandM Utopian Guardian* in stores here. The decisions by big-chain bookstores to carry some of the more inoffensive titles, such as those published by *Masquerade Books*, has helped a little, but these are virtually all that are available. Mail order from *Amazon.com* or *QSM* helps a little, but many mail-order companies will not mail into the Bible Belt for fear of prosecution. This is particularly true of more salacious materials, and especially movies. Some companies, such as *Blowfish*, will ship some titles, but not others. Most refuse to ship any movies into the Bible Belt. Intermittent harassment of adult-oriented businesses by both the police and self-appointed crusaders against vice continues. The adult toy stores in the area cater primarily to the "raincoat" crowd. They stock little of interest for *BDSMers*, though our local dirty bookstore does have liquid latex.

Fetish clothing is easier to find. Now that it's chic, most major cities in the region have at least one store carrying it, although usually catering more to the Goth crowd than to us.

The bar and club scene is just beginning in the Bible Belt and remains quite tame by the standards of New York, New Orleans, or Atlanta. Memphis' one supposed gay leather bar, for instance is mostly a cotton-polyester blend. Leather is rarely seen and the lax dress code is enforced only for special occasions. It is not surprising that fetish dance clubs (and fetish nights at regular clubs) have also made their way here. The South, after all, has the largest per capita number of strip clubs in the nation.

The fetish clubs are much like those elsewhere in the nation, offering the same in attractively-packaged but crude stereotypes of *BDSM* to their clientele of dilettantes, wannabes, and hormone-driven youth.

Virtually all the *BDSM* groups host a regular series of play parties, especially around Hallowe'en and Valentine's Day. Larger events are still quite rare. Memphis hosted *Roissy* two years ago, and recently surprised everyone by bringing in Guy Baldwin to one of its events. Attendance at even these events, though, remains quite small. Even with Baldwin as a draw, attendance didn't top fifty people. Events just outside the Bible Belt, however, do quite well, and Mid-Southerners flock to them in great numbers. Both groups in Nashville recently opened dungeons for their members, and Memphis has followed suit. Prices are comparable to what you would pay in New York. The spaces tend to be larger, but the equipment is quite ordinary. Play is mild with an emphasis on sensual, and often sexual, activities rather than pain.

Easily the most obvious difference between these groups and those elsewhere in the United States is their leadership. Most *BDSM* groups today were founded by people long into the scene. Often they were members of large groups on one of the coasts who moved (or moved back) to the heartland. At the very least they had attended some meetings of the larger groups, regularly attended national events, or had some other connection to the national scene. This is not the case in the Bible Belt. Here almost every group was

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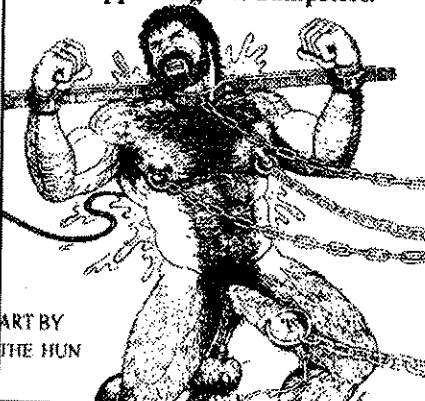
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ART BY
THE HUN

Bible Belt

continued from pg 41

founded by a relative novice, often one who learned about BDSM in the chat rooms of *America Online*. The result is that groups here are largely ignorant of normal BDSM etiquette, conduct, and even practice. People in collars are routinely touched, groped, and hugged. Slaves are approached by strangers and propositioned with their owners standing right next to them. It is an environment that owes more to swing clubs than leather bars. (Yes, there are swing clubs in the Bible Belt. One was just raided and shut down in a Memphis suburb.) Fortunately this is changing, due in large part to the easy availability of novice-oriented books. Still, BDSMers in the Mid-South remain painfully ignorant of the history and cultural norms of the larger community. Ignorance of common practices such as giving cane strokes in groups of six or wearing your whip and having your slave walk on your left, are not very important, but their absence marks Mid-Southerners as apart from the larger community.

So, is there a BDSM community in the Bible Belt? Yes. Is it behind the times, sexist, homophobic, and racist? Too often, yes. Is it going to stay that way? No. The problems of the BDSM community here are problems that exist throughout our society both within and

without our community. That they are worse in this BDSM community is due to the simple fact that they are worse in the larger society in the Bible Belt from which the BDSM community necessarily draws most of its members. While BDSMers in the Mid-South may appear socially backward compared to those elsewhere, they are clearly ahead of their non-kinky neighbors. As the BDSM community here strengthens and grows, its connections with the national community should strengthen and grow as well. Culture and values from without will percolate in and enrich without destroying its Southern uniqueness. ♦

Memphis Links (Memphis, TN)

c/o Impact PO Box 34160
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<http://www.mindspring.com/~psibertop/BDSM/index.html>

Rose-N-Thorn (Nashville, TN)

c/o Master Rex PO Box 3633
Clarksville, TN 37043
<http://www.rose-n-thornGuild.org/>

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Aussie CONsensual '99 set for October

The theme for this year's conference is:
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and will be held in Melbourne Oct. 1-4th.

The site is the Paladin Entertainment Complex
which offers a variety of separate areas ideal for run-
ning a conference. The organizers solicit the presen-
ters from among their membership and the work-
shops are scheduled to run less than an hour each.

Information about the Con can be found online

at: www.consensual.org

and email can be sent to:

info@consensual.org.

Newz from New Zealand

Did you know that TES in Wellington New Zealand is "The Endorphin Society," one of several BDSM organizations that have grown up in recent times. In Christchurch it's Uncommon Bonds, and Auckland has an active casual munch group. All of them are making good use of the internet to overcome the distances between them and a national newsletter keeps everyone informed.

Last November they had their first Mini-Con in Wellington which got "rave reviews" from the attendees. Some of the workshop topics sounded familiar to US ears, other events were more unusual. For instance, they had a "Sub Olympics" with events like Shoeshine, William Tell (Apple eating with a twist,) the Three Metre (sic) Crawl -- (Balance that tray or suffer the consequences,) Rope Tie in 10 minutes with 12 yards of rope, and the Obstacle course (blindfolded with voice instruction only).

Another highlight of the con was the Workshop workshop, given by Bruce. "Wood doesn't just grow on trees. It has to be sawn, shaped, glued, drilled and painted before it's fit to tie a sub to." Attendees were invited to "Bring your favorite power tool and we'll stand around the workbench and chat about making that oh so necessary equipment." In the same time slot was a workshop for Women with suggested topics like Safety, Fisting, and Tips for new players.

Entertainment, free-form discussions and of course a traders area all rounded out the weekend. ❖

To contact them online:

<http://homepages.ihug.co.nz/~cave> (look under events)

Wellington email to: endorphin_soc@hotmail.com
or snailmail to: The Endorphin Society, POB 26-090

Christchurch Uncommon Bonds:

<http://www.GeoCities.com/SouthBeach/Pointe/2578>

email to: uncommonbonds@iname.com

snailmail to: POB 36-371 Merivale, Christchurch

Auckland: Auckland/BDSM monthly casual munch

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An Eti-Quiz for Tops, Bottoms ~ ... and those who know them

Fourth (and last) of a Series

by Carolyn and Steve Vakesh

How did you do on the previous Eti-Quizzes? Ready for another one?

(Also see Issues #31, 32, & 33)

Telephone Manners

1) You've had a long conversation with some else's slave. The Owner now appears and demands to know the details of the conversation. How much are you obligated to tell?

- a) Everything
- b) Only what pertains to the Owner
- c) Only what pertains to BDSM
- d) Both b and c
- e) Nothing

2) You make a phone call to a person you know is a live-in slave. How do you ask to speak to them?

- a) "Hi, this is (your name). I need to talk to slave Jami."
- b) "Hi, let me speak to Jami."
- c) "May I speak to Jami, please."
- d) "Hi, this is (your name). If it is convenient, may I speak to Jami?"
- e) "Hi, can I speak to your slave?"

3) How do you leave a message on an answering machine for a live-in slave?

- a) Direct the message to his owner.
- b) No different than if he wasn't a slave.
- c) Start by saying "Slave, kneel as you listen."
- d) Leave no message.

4) How do you leave a message that concerns BDSM on someone's answering machine?

a) Avoid leaving any message with BDSM content.

b) Hint subtly about the BDSM without directly stating anything incriminating.

c) Politely state the details about the BDSM content so that there is no confusion what the message is about but don't overdo it.

d) People enjoy fun BDSM messages. Go all out to make this one as hot as possible.

Answers and Scoring:

- 1. a-0 b-0 c-0 d-0 e-5
- 2. a-0 b-0 c-4 d-5 e-1
- 3. a-5 b-2 c-0 d-1
- 4. a-5 b-4 c-1 d-0

If you scored:

18-20: Phone Guru: You know when and how to speak about BDSM on the telephone.

8-17: Dialing for Danger. You're pretty good already. Just make sure you don't say anything you shouldn't when you pick up the receiver.

Remember, you can't press the DELETE key on the telephone.

0-7 Phony! Don't call us. We won't call you. The way you act on the phone endangers and insults the people you call. Shape up.

1) **Answer:** Nothing. The Owner should ask the slave. You have no obligation to tell her anything. If her slave won't talk, that's her problem. Of course, you should refuse politely. A good all purpose phrase is: "I'm sorry, I don't feel comfortable revealing that."

2) **Answer:** Always introduce



yourself. Realize that you do not have an automatic right to speak to someone else's property, so always ask politely to do so. Finally, do not use the words "Master" or "Slave" in the conversation since you don't know who might overhear.

3) **Answer:** You should always direct the message to the owner rather than the slave. But be careful to avoid any mention of their respective roles. This can be as simple as saying, "Steve, could you please ask Jami to give me a call back?"

4) **Answer:** You should never leave a message with any BDSM content. You have no idea who might be listening.

Summary: If you have participated in all four parts of the quiz, you are now ready to add up your Grand Total scores. How did you do?

Are you someone that other BDSMers are happy to be with, play with and hear from? Or do you have some homework to do before you can show your face again in public?

Hope you have enjoyed this opportunity to see yourself as others see you. See you around the dungeon! ♦

(Carolyn and Steve are regular contributors to The Guardian and active members of their local BDSM community for almost twenty years, wherever they have lived. They welcome your comments.)

More News and Views

Copyrights and Spanking Rights

Photographer Sues Badpuppy for Copyrights

Colt Studio, of Studio City CA has filed a major copyright and trademark infringement lawsuit in Federal District Court against Badpuppy, Inc. of Miami FL and its president William Pinyon, the owner of several large gay web sites

Colt Studio maintains that Badpuppy has used hundreds of copyrighted Colt photographs on several of its sites without Colt's knowledge or permission. They further claim that Badpuppy failed to remove images after cease and desist

notices were sent to them. The sites charge up to twenty dollars a month to view and download pictures.

Because of the alleged continual pattern of copyright abuse, the court is asked to consider awarding RICO (Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization) penalties in addition to other penalties and damages.

Colt was founded in 1967 by Rip Colt, who said he believes Badpuppy has not only used his photographs but those of many other photographers, and as a leader in the industry he feels this is an important step to help stop the blatant piracy of legally protected works.

Is New Oklahoma Law Safe, Sane and Consensual?

A state law reminding parents they have a right to spank their children has gone into effect. Gov. Frank Keating said, "I was spanked as a child and I turned out all right."

In addition to spanking, the law now states that parents may use, "reasonable force" to discipline their children by spanking, paddling or whipping with a switch! Supporters said they wanted to remind parents of their rights to counter what they saw as a breakdown in discipline that led to the recent events in Colorado.

Keating dismissed the idea that the law could lead to more child abuse. "Spanking is all right. Beating is not all right," he said. ❖

[And paddling and whipping?]

In Their Own Words

Two letters to Chris Scanlon re: his case for copyright violation against NYC's GMSMA.

Dear Chris,

I printed your side of the story and GMSMA's side of the story once. *[In The Leather Journal]* That's all I'm printing on it. This should be over by now. I am forwarding your letter to me to John Weis. Your advise (sic) that no one support their defense seems to be just as defamatory and may thereby open you to similar litigation. *[See Issue #33]*

We all got what GMSMA printed and what you sent out. Apparently unbeknownst to you and your attorney, we have minds of our own. We were not lemmings or puppets being misled or jumping up and down every time John Weis, Gil Kessler or Bruce Marcus pulled strings. We supported John, Gil and Bruce because they are friends.

Please grasp the concept. These people are dear friends of the Leather community. Even if you win one thousand trillion dollars from them in a decision rendered by the Supreme Court and backed up by a 200,000,000 Chinese army, John, Gil and Bruce will still be our FRIENDS. We don't justify, praise, condemn or judge their actions, they are just family. Please drop the lawsuit.

Yours, *Dave Rhodes*

The publisher of my newspaper has forbid me to write ever again, anything regarding this little bitch

fight you are having with GMSMA. Please do not send me anymore material regarding this subject. I am not interested. My readers are not interested. The entire leather community is OVER infighting in NYC. Please delete my name and email address from your list(s) and do not send me anymore (sic) info on this subject. Thank you in advance. When you threatened to sue me, my publication and others for millions of dollars, what do you expect?

*Mr. Marcus, Leather Editor
Bay Area Reporter, San Francisco*

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Request for information on cleaning floggers:

We know that there is something that can be used to clean leather and suede floggers as well as single tails. Can you tell us what it is called and where we can get it?

Also can you recommend the best method of cleaning these expensive items ... we'd sure hate to ruin them.

Adam replies:

You cannot actually clean suede. You can reduce the amount of grease/oil that the tips pick up with a "chalk block." That's NOT a piece of schoolroom chalk. You get it at better shoe repair shops. It's sold "for cleaning suede." You rub it in ... then rub it off with a stiff nylon brush. It's a godawful amount of work for almost no significant improvement. It's only meant to be used on the occasional sandwich

spot on someone's suede shoes

Singletails are really easy. Usually it's the "popper" you're worried about. Assuming that it's the "braided in" design, you simply wash the thing with a surgical scrub soap ... keeping the water off the leather.

(Actually any hand soap will get the job done ... but why argue with Politicized Science) You can also use a 3% bleach solution with a five minute dip. It will bleach the nylon and shorten its life.

To clean the handle portion of your Signal Whip ... use saddle soap and water according to directions ... followed by reconditioning with Pecard leather dressing (same place you got the Suede Chalk). The same drill applies to the thong — but that portion rarely needs cleaning. With fancy braided flogger handles, prevention is better than cure. If you don't feel like putting on a

glove every time you use your best flogger, you can apply thin coats of a hard carnauba wax, from time to time. Just don't get the stuff from an auto supply manufacturer — the solvents and softeners aren't that good for the leather. Kiwi™ colorless shoe polish works fine.

Cleaning leather: Lexol™ cleaner/conditioner is readily available at cobbler's shops — and is easier to work with than saddle soap and water. This stuff is actually the "fat liquor" used for final conditioning at the tannery. Wipe it on ... wipe it off ... the leather is clean(er) and soft(er) than it was. Just remember ... the other side of the flogger tress is the suede side. Use Lexol on it and it will stiffen up a bit. ♦

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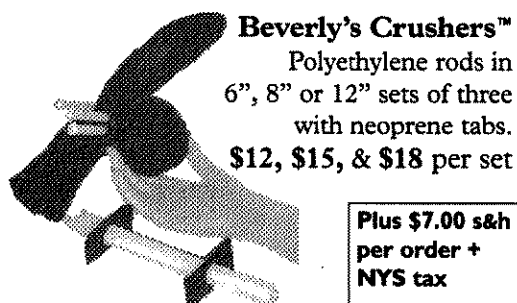
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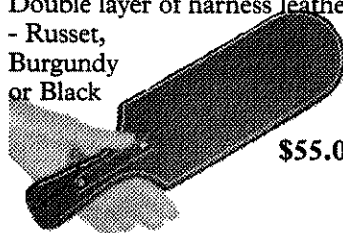
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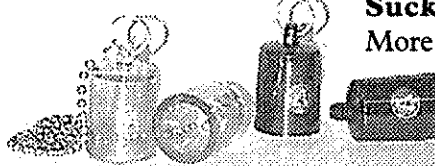
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ed, it was perfect! The cool leather feel on my ass was soon replaced with a glowing sting. A perfect size and weight, my husband blistered my butt well with it. He even gently paddled my tits and pussy. I love the sound and feel as he paddles my ass leaving it hot and red. I love the warm afterburn also.

We have only been married 23 months and this is our first spanking implement purchase ever. Perhaps something else to use on my bare ass would be fun to celebrate our anniversary. I cannot wait until tonight so I can beg my husband for a LONG, HARD paddling with your lovely instrument that sets my butt and pussy on FIRE!!!!

Thanks for your quality product from a satisfied customer who loves her red, glowing, hot ass after use of your product. I look forward to trying more items. Any suggestions ??

Gail

Gillian responds:

You have a number of options. You can have more of the same (like the Sole Bend™ or the Hairbrush Paddle™) or go for "something completely different" like Rubber! (See the Little Bear™ or the neoprene version of the Fiddle Paddle™).

Rubber has unique qualities and people either love it or they hate it! It leaves a "memory" after each stroke that leather does not, making the effect cumulative. If you are into pussy paddling the Fiddle Paddle's unusual shape is ideally suited. And, if rubber is not your thing, try it in the original Patent Leather for a really slick sensation!

Dear Gillian:

A girl's Master ordered her to write You a short note explaining her punishment with the cane he ordered from You.... And to briefly tell her thoughts on her caning.

First : this girl didn't like it! It was her first experience with a cane and found it to be as painful as she thought it would be.

On the other hand, her Master loves it and has now incorporated it into His choice of implements used for punishment.

The punishment took place on a Florida Key which we call our own personal island since no one is hardly ever out there.

After a fairly hard hand spanking to warm a girl's skin, a girl had to lean over and rest her hands on a tree branch. She was given six strokes of the cane and allowed to rest. She was then given another hand spanking to warm her bottom again and received six more strokes.

A girl actually ran and hid behind a rock after the third stroke in the second series. A girl's Master was not mad but said, this girl looked like a real little girl hiding there....instead of the 44 year old mature woman she is suppose to be!

All in all a girl survived...had only two track marks and her Master was extremely pleased with the cane.

Most respectfully, cassandra, colored slave to Master Rick

Sir,

I have seen an interesting pair of nipple clamps in a video. They had magnetic weights that came with them. I think there were about five weights for each clamp... of course more would be better. Do you carry this item or know where I can acquire them?

Dear Lucy,

The beauty of magnet weights, of course, is that it is so easy to add weight without a lot of fuss and bother, and without removing the clamps.

I've seen a number of configurations ... however none were from a commercial source — they were made by the people who used them.

If you have no local source for magnets, **Edmund Scientific Supply Co.** carries a wide selection. They even have ring-shaped magnets in colors. Their phone number is (609) 547-8880 ♦

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The Martinet Revealed ??

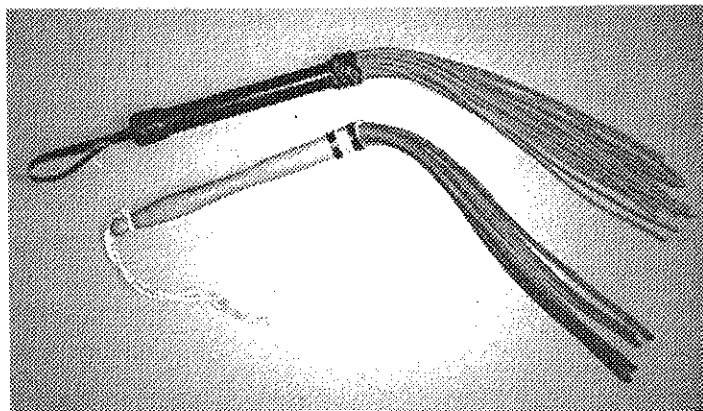
by Adam Selene

There is a great deal of pre-SS&C S/M Porn that mentions someone being beaten with a Martinet or carrying a Martinet with the intention of beating someone. But what does the damned thing look like?

Your average dictionary will tell you that a "martinet" is "a perfectionist" or "a harsh taskmaster or disciplinarian." and it may advise you that the term came from Louis XIV's inspector general of infantry, Jean de Martinet who died in 1672 — but will rarely mention that there is an instrument of punishment that bears his name, let alone describe its design.

Although the Marquis de Martinet revolutionized the French Army with harsh discipline and exacting close order drill ... he probably never carried "a martinet" himself.

However, his methods made a deep impression on the French national psyche. Not only did his name become synonymous with tyrannical perfectionism, it was also applied to a domestic implement ... originally sold for knocking dirt and dried mud out of carpets and clothing. This was a wooden handle with six to ten 18" long leather tails.



Flogger and Martinet: The wood handled Martinet (lower) shown here is German-made of World War I vintage. The leather handled flogger shown for comparison is a present day English "Flogger"

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More than a century before the invention of dry cleaning, the Austrian and Prussian Armies, which had learned the value of snappy-looking uniforms from M le Marquis were quick to adopt the martinet itself, as well as the French Drill. However, it was employed by orderlies to remove road dust from their masters' jackets and pants. It was not considered severe enough for the punishment of disciplined soldiers.

The French would later discover that clothes washed in solvents rather than soap and water would last longer and appear cleaner ... but before that happened they also adopted The Martinet — but as a handy device for disciplining their children! Until the late 1950s the Martinet was found in most French houseware and hardware stores. About 24" overall, and made of soft

leather, it was designed not to damage either pantaloons or progeny and is known to us today under the more prosaic name of "Flogger." In some American locales this implement is also known as a "Flail" ... a "Flogger" being the person who swings it. ❖

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Dynamics of Domination

ation, it is a logical thing for me to study next.

The questions which came out of those many and varied conversations last Summer go something like this: Who are we? How do we find these desires in ourselves? Who do we share them with? What early background and experiences may have contributed to our formation as people who live a Dominant and/ or submissive lifestyle and/or lovestyle? What effects might our love for power and pain have had on our lives and our relationships? How are we living now and working out our intimate lives? How happy are we? What kinds of religion or spirituality do we find meaningful? How do we perceive ourselves and our partners? Is the real power in our relationships always with the supposed Dominant? What kinds of subtle power moves do submissives commonly make?

I want to find some answers to these and other questions and I am looking for dominant women, regardless

continued from pg 50

of affectional preference, who are in, or have been in long-term D/s relationships. I would like to have a fairly large sample of responses to a survey that I have worked very hard to edit so that it doesn't ask respondents to work too hard, but still gives me the information I'm seeking. I promise absolute confidentiality and professionalism. Is masochism, as Anita Phillips argues, a literary, narrative impulse? Are all of us who enjoy meting out punishment actually masochists, as Phillips also claims? As Claudia Varrin implies, can any woman become a female Dominant by following Varrin's directions and reading her anecdotes? I find Dominance and submission and S/M fraught with a spiritual and transformational reality that far transcends any of the writing we have currently. I find Dominance in women more interesting than Dominance in men, because of the way it overturns traditional gender roles. I especially want women in long-term relationships,

not because being a professional doesn't count (if Dominance is part of your professional life *and* your at-home personal life, I would be grateful to hear from you), but because I'm asking questions about primary intimate relationships and the formation of self over time. If you are a Dominant woman and you are interested in replying to my survey, please send me a note at the post-office box below expressing your interest and giving me your mailing address. I will send you my survey and a postage-paid envelope for its return. I will appreciate your time and your effort in answering my questions and returning them.

**Dr. Ann O'Neill
P.O. Box 633
Ankeny, IA 50021**

[For a review of Anita Phillips' book, *A Defense of Masochism*, see pg 33 For an excerpt from Claudia Varrin's *The Art of Sensual Female Dominance*, see Issue #29 of *The Guardian*.]

Dynamics of Domination

by Dr. Ann O'Neill

Last June when *The New Yorker* ran Paul Theroux' article on the professional domina he called, "Nurse Wolfe", all my friends were talking about it. Vanilla friends, Catholic friends, psychologist friends, heavy s/m friends, everybody. And everybody had something different to say about it. Some of my friends had never heard of anything so revolting or anything so fascinating. Some of them had the psychological and economic ramifications of striking a bargain about paying for pain all worked out. One of them, who jokingly suggests that having women re-tool for higher wages by apprenticing with experienced Dominas, insists that the real power is in the hands of the submissive consumer. One friend, I happened to telephone while she was reading the piece. She answered the phone in a voice that was so quiet, I thought something must be terribly wrong at her house. "Are you okay?" I asked her. "Yes." "Are you not feeling well?" "No, I'm fine," she said, still in an extremely hushed voice. "Is one of the children sick?" "No." "Then, why are we practi-

cally whispering?" "I'm reading this article." I immediately knew which one. I kept quiet. About Nurse Wolfe and her clients, my friend said, "I don't even want to know people like this exist." And one friend had only one word to say — "Yum."

Around the same time, I began hearing about friends of friends ... someone or another somebody knew — who were living in relationships which had BDSM as the very foundation on which they were based. People who have heavy dominance and submission as, as one of the women with whom I've been corresponding for my research calls it, the glue that holds them together. These people were often in what we used to call, "the caring professions" ... nurses, teachers, social workers — and they were often women who seemed to have some things in common. People had wide variations in fantasy and in practice, in how closed and how open they were. Some people had jewelry or tattoos that indicated the dynamic of their relationship, while others had never divulged their interest in S/M to even

their closest friends. For me, the intersection of these two lines of conversation converged to form a very interesting inquiry.

My background is in literature, but I re-tooled for a higher wage not by studying domination, but by studying rhetoric. In my study of rhetoric, I combined my love of literature and stories in general — human narratives — to write a book about psychoanalysis and its most famous father, Freud. Now, I can't go on to another project until I complete this study of domination. What I am writing is an exploration, not an expose, of BDSM. The discussions my friends and I had raised many questions for me. Some of the questions were raised by the conversations themselves and the parties involved — yes, with some people this could be a topic that could be (over-?) intellectualized, yes, it could be discussed openly and enjoyed and analyzed for all the wonderful and terrible effects it can have, yes, I could listen to the reactions of people who were horrified. But the issues it raises are usually the same, and they are consistent with my previous study. Stories always depend on the authority of the storyteller. Authority is always about a kind of power. Because of the way D/s plays with power, because it is both real and fantastic, because it depends on cre-

continued on pg 49

...YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING...



Writer's Guidelines -- for *THE SANDMUTOPIAN GUARDIAN* a Journal of BDSM Realities

The *Guardian* is first and foremost a practical guide to safe and enjoyable exotic eroticism. Think of it as a combination of *Popular Mechanics*™ and *Consumer's Digest*™ for kinky sex. Our ambition is to become the independent "Journal of Record" of BDSM. Our readership includes people of *all* sexual orientations, gender identities and power polarities. While readers' experience levels range from, "just thinking about it," to "lifestyle devotee," we want to be especially mindful of, and useful to, the *less* experienced reader.

The Guardian is not following anyone's Party Line nor is it aligned with any particular demographic sub-grouping. We *will not refuse* a piece because of the "political" point of view it reflects or (to the limit of Statutory Libel) because "someone" will "be offended."

We take the broadest possible view of what constitutes appropriate material

*EQUIPMENT *LEGAL and SOCIAL ISSUES

*RELATIONSHIPS *ROLES *SCENARIOS,

*TECHNIQUES *CRAFTS and SKILLS

HEALTH and SAFETY CONCERNS

Almost anything touching on BDSM, Fetish, Power Exchange, might be a successful article. We also buy "filler" pieces: humorous anecdotes, tips and hints, cartoons, etc..

Work can be submitted typewritten, or as an ASCII file in PC or MAC format, or in an email message. Please *do not send* text formatted in a program. (eg. Word, Word Perfect)

Payment: We pay — not lavishly, but respectably. Please contact us for particulars, including special situations, illustrations, and reprints. Contributors get a copy of the magazine in which their article appears.

We buy one-time serial rights with a one-time reprint provision. Payment is on acceptance, and we try to respond to all submissions within sixty days. SASE required for return.

Style and Content: Factual material, organized sequentially is the first concern, "style" is a bonus. Remember the "5 W's" of Journalism: Who, What, Where, When, and how — the "How to Write a Good Term Paper" handbooks? That's the idea.

Citations are Good. If you reference a product or publication, there should be an address and/or phone number, too. Appended Resource Lists are always welcome.

It is probably better to put too many words on paper, than to skip over "the obvious." Clarifying illustration, even crude hand drawings, is always useful.

About "PC Language": Writers needn't feel that they have to obscure their own orientations, alignments or biases — and gender specific pronouns *are* used when a specific person's gender is known, or gender is relevant. Otherwise, we like a style which de-emphasizes gender, polarity, and orientation. We have no problem with the "he/she, her/him" style used in government documents, the "false plural" form, or even the made up pronouns like "(s)he" and "co." Please be mindful that half of humanity is *not* male and at least 10% of it is *not* heterosexual. Try for inclusiveness.

About "Safety": We assume that our readers are adults and that we, and they, reached maturity by not being "stupid or reckless." *The Guardian* focuses on the pleasure and sensual nature of BDSM and *less* on the dangers, perils and negatives of BDSM play. If there are some safety or health issues not readily apparent, they may need to be included. But we will not belabor the obvious.

DEADLINES:

The next issue is #35 with a deadline in mid-September for Fall publication. If you have an article that you want to be considered for this issue, call or write to let us know — the sooner the better.

If you miss the deadline, we will still be buying and paying as we go. In effect, we've got to worry about deadlines ... you can just work to your own schedule.

ARTWORK AND PHOTOGRAPHY

Artists and illustrators are invited to send samples of their work by way of self-introduction. Almost all illustration will be commissioned for particular articles. Possible cover art, centerfold photo-essays and folios will be considered on their own merits. We want to project enjoyment, respect, safe-and-sane practice, and consensuality — or at least *not* communicate the reverse.

We are *not* in the market for "eye candy," rigid bondage/genitorture studies or depictions of atrocities. Work may be submitted in MAC or WINDOWS disk formats. If photographs are accepted, we may ask to use the negative for proper reproduction — and, of course, Model Releases in keeping with the law.

The Factual, Practical Journal of BDSM Realities.

With Issue #31, we started our second decade of *The Guardian*. Readers learned about the use of the voice in scene, more about Flogging, saw how to Hide a Dungeon, how to Soundproof it, took an Eti-Quiz, kept up with legal cases.

In Issue 32, readers about two ways to do FireCupping, Brat Submissives, more about Flogging from "Adam" and about Domination from a famous professional, as well as Part 1 of a Bibliography of basic for every BDSM library.

Issue #33 began Tony DeBlase's revisit to Male Genitorture, How to use the many IRC chat channels on the Internet, How to build and use the Ultimate Spreader Bar and more.

In addition to feature articles, each issue of *The Guardian* may carry: Book, CD or Video Reviews, S/Mart Shopper hints, Unexpected Sources for BDSM Toys, s/m-oriented News and Ads from the Mainstream, called "We Can't Make These Things Up!", Updates on Legal Cases, Letters from readers ... and so much more!

(It does NOT have: fiction, fantasy or poetry. And, NO "eye-candy" pix of hunks or babes just to fill space!)

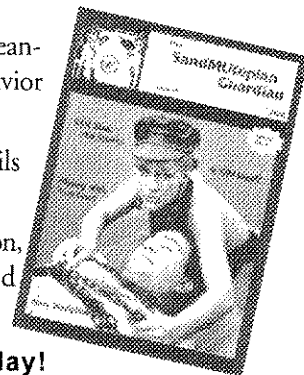
Some of the topics explored in previous issues:

How to articles on: Flogging, Plaster Casting, Hiding a Toy Cabinet, Building a Spanking Bench, Portable Stocks, Making a Belt into a pair of Cuffs; A Wrist Collar, Making Your Own Poppers ...

Relationship articles on: Handling the Personals, Views of a Lifestyle Submissive Man and a "Gorean-style" Slavegirl, Safewords, Lives & Loves of Pirates, Knights, Samurai. "Slave" Auctions, Slave Behavior & Contracts.

Discussions of: Naval and Military Discipline; Consent as a Defense, Updates on Legal Cases, Perils of Public Play; Why a US Naval Capt. would *not* flog his crewmen.

Practical articles about: Caning, Spanking, How to Bind Wrists, Why Rubber is Such a Turn-on, Playing with Rubber Bands, Mummification, Enemation, Intro to Fisting, Playing with Wax and Candles, Lotions and Potions and Electricity.



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